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CONFIDENTIAL.

(4533.)

F.O.

424

PART LXI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

May 1881.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part LXI.

No. 1.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 2.*)

E (No. 30.)

Sophia, April 16, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a further letter which I have received from the Turkish landed proprietors at Kustendil, inclosing a copy of a petition which they have addressed to the Commission sitting at Kustendil, asking by what authority, and in virtue of what law, the Commission has acted in contravention of the Treaty of Berlin, the Bulgarian Constitution, and the sentences of the Tribunals.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which has been communicated to me by Nihad Pasha, explaining the manner in which the different categories of land are cultivated, and giving details as to the proceedings of the Commission. Nihad Pasha has informed me that this letter has been written by a person in whom he has confidence, but who has requested him not to divulge his name.

Shortly before M. Stoitchoff's departure for Vienna, I called his attention to the complaints which I had received, which I told him it would be my duty to transmit to your Lordship, and as it was probable that I should be instructed to make a representation to the Bulgarian Government on the subject, I suggested that it would be advisable to call upon M. Zancoff for an explanation of the proceedings of the Commission.

M. Stoitchoff said that he doubted whether there was any real foundation for the complaints of the Turks. It was most unlikely that M. Zancoff should have treated them unjustly; and, indeed, the leniency which he had shown towards the Turks generally had been the cause of complaint on the part of Bulgarians. He had telegraphed to M. Zancoff informing him of the complaints that had been made, and asking him to draw up a Report upon the subject.

I understand that the Mufti of Sophia, who was the Mussulman member of the Commission, has resigned his seat in the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Letter addressed to Mr. Lascelles by Turks of Kustendil.

Excellence,

Kustendil, le 22 Mars / 3 Avril, 1881.

LES Soussignés, propriétaires des immeubles et représentants des absents propriétaires de Kustendil, nous avons pris la liberté de nous adresser la semaine passé par le Général Nihat Pacha à votre Excellence, en vous exposant les travaux d'une Commission arrivée ici avant quelques jours sous la présidence de M. Zancoff. Cette Commission, sans

respecter ni le Traité de Berlin ni les lois en vigueur, a commencé partager sans discrétion nos immeubles à qui lui plaît, sans nous en reconnaître propriétaires, tandis que le Gouvernement Bulgare et les Tribunaux nous ont déjà reconnus depuis longtemps comme tels, en nous donnant aussi le droit de louer ou vendre nos propriétés. Elle ne reconnaît non plus les contrats officiels de louage en vente que nous avons faits à différentes époques en nous obligeant retourner sous garantie le prix d'achat ou vente que nous avons reçu et elle nous chasse aussi de nos propriétés.

Désespérés à cause de cet état des choses, nous venons d'adresser hier à la Commission la pétition, dont vous trouvez ci-jointe la copie, en priant M. le Président de cette Commission nous répondre sur quelle loi s'appuyant fait tout ce qu'il vient de faire. M. le Président nous répondit qu'il enverra notre pétition au Ministère, lui ne pouvant répondre à elle.

De tout ce que nous venons de décrire, qui n'est que trop vrai, vous voyez, Excellence, que la Commission ne pense qu'à nous perdre en général en nous chassant de nos propriétés sans faire attention et respecter ni le XII^{e} Article du Traité de Berlin ni le 67^{e} et 68^{e} Article de la Constitution Bulgare, enfin, ni le droit naturel et positif, parce qu'elle donne aux lois force rétroactive à ce qu'il paraît, autrement nous ne pouvons comprendre cette conduite et manière d'agir de cette Commission.

Par conséquence, les Soussignés prenons la liberté de nous adresser à votre Excellence, Représentant d'une des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, et nous vous prions agréer agir chez le Gouvernement Bulgare pour respecter le XII^{e} Article du Traité de Berlin, que M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de cette Principauté à sa note du $\frac{27\text{ Janvier}}{8\text{ Février}}$ mentionne si souvent.

En espérant, Excellence, que vous agréerez faire tout votre possible pour empêcher la susdite Commission de ces démarches, qui vont nous perdre tout à fait, et que vous obligerez le Gouvernement respecter le Traité de Berlin et les lois, nous avons, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Petition addressed to the President of the Commission by Turks of Kustendil.

M. le Président,

LES Soussignés, propriétaires et représentants des absents propriétaires, ayant en vue le XII^{e} Article du Traité de Berlin, le 67^{e} et 68^{e} Articles de la Constitution Bulgare, les lois en vigueur, les différents ordres de Son Altesse le Prince sous différentes dates, et de l'autre côté les actes de la Commission, dont vous êtes le Président, prenons l'honneur de vous adresser ces quelques lignes.

Puisque l'Europe, par le XII^{e} Article du Traité de Berlin, par lequel la Bulgarie fut reconnue comme Principauté, obligea cette Principauté reconnaître tous les propriétaires Turcs qui possèdent les documents de leurs propriétés, et leur donna le droit d'exploiter eux-mêmes leurs propriétés ou les donner aux autres sous louage ou les vendre;

Puisque le 67^{e} et 68^{e} Article de la Constitution Bulgare dit que le droit de propriété est irrévocable;

Puisque Son Altesse le Prince par différents ordres et même par une Commission Spéciale de l'année passée agréa nous rendre nos propriétés;

Puisque les Soussignés ayant remplis toutes les formalités exigées par les lois fûmes reconnus propriétaires par les sentences des Tribunaux, qui sont irrévocables, puisque le temps fixé pour cela par la loi est déjà depuis longtemps passé;

Puisque les Soussignés ayant aussi remplis toutes les formalités exigées par la loi avons vendu ou loué nos immeubles par des actes légalisés et reconnus par les Tribunaux de la Principauté;

Puisque les Tribunaux ont obligé les villageois jusqu'à présent nous donner la partie appartenante à nous des revenus de nos propriétés;

Et puisque jusqu'à présent nous n'avons eu encore l'honneur d'apprendre la loi ou ordre que vous avez comme base de vos actes:

Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous répondre—

Par quel droit votre Commission, foulant aux pieds le Traité de Berlin, la Constitution Bulgare, les lois en vigueur, les ordres de Son Altesse le Prince, et les sentences des Tribunaux, vient de dire aux villageois qu'ils ont la pleine liberté d'exploiter les terres Turques, qu'ils travaillent au temps Turc, sans avoir aucune obligation de reconnaître les propriétaires Turcs de ces terres, qui peuvent s'adresser au Gouvernement s'ils ont quelques prétentions?

Par quel droit ou sur quelle loi la Commission vient de dire aux propriétaires qu'ils n'ont aucun droit sur leurs propriétés?

Par quel droit votre Commission ne reconnaît les contrats d'achat ou louage et obligea les propriétaires retourner sous garantie aux acheteurs ou locataires de leurs propriétés le prix qu'ils ont reçu:

Par quel droit votre Commission, foulant au pied les sentences des Tribunaux, oblige les propriétaires retourner aux villageois les revenus de leurs propriétés, qu'ils viennent de toucher?

Par quel droit votre Commission, foulant au pied le droit naturel et positif, veut donner aux lois une force rétroactive? Seulement, si votre honorable Commission, en persécutant les propriétaires Turcs, croit qu'elle agit selon les déclarations de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, contenues à la note de $\frac{27\text{ Janvier}}{8\text{ Février}}$ adressée aux Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Sophia, ou si elle croit que sa volonté est supérieure des lois, puisqu'elle n'a aucun respect pour eux.

Nous espérons, M. le Président, que votre honorable Commission, ayant en vue nos précédentes observations et nos intérêts, qui vont se perdre tout à fait, agréera nous communiquer la loi qu'elle a comme base à ses démarches. Au contraire, si nous ne réusssirons à cette réponse, comme vos démarches et actes sont tout à fait contraires au Traité de Berlin, la Constitution Bulgare, les lois en vigueur, le droit naturel et positif, les Soussignés nous vous prions accepter le présent comme protêt contre vos actes et démarches, dont nous n'accepterons aucun. Copie du présent sera envoyée au Ministère et les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Sophia.

Kustendil, le 23 *Mars,* 1881.

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Letter from Kustendil addresed to Nihad Pasha.

Kustendil, le 21 *Mars,* 1881 (v.s.).

(Traduction.)

LES terres et les fermes possédées par les propriétaires à Kustendil sont de trois catégories.

La première comprend les terres de deux ou trois deunumes qui sont données par contrat en location à forfait ("kessime"), pour lesquelles le locataire donne au propriétaire en denrée un kilé de Constantantinople par an, le reste du produit est à son profit.

La seconde comprend les terres qui sont exploitées par les Yaridjis (associés à moitié égale); les semences en sont fournies par les propriétaires, tout le travail de culture est à la charge des cultivateurs, qui partagent le produit à moitié égale avec les propriétaires.

Et la troisième catégorie consiste en terres que les propriétaires exploitent par des domestiques (valets de fermes) engagés avec le consentement des deux parties moyennant un gage au mois ou à l'année, en y employant leurs propres bêtes (à corne ou chevaux).

Les terres détachées, comme vignes ou jardins, sont exploitées au moyen des journaliers par les propriétaires qui en reçoivent les produits.

Les impots des terres et fermes exploitées selon les modes indiquées, ainsi que ceux des vignes et jardins, sont payés au Gouvernement par les propriétaires respectifs, dont la plupart ont dans les mains, comme on a pu le voir, des documents authentiques et légaux.

On a fait porter à la Commission comme exemple, à chacune de ces dites catégories, les titres délivrés par les autorités de Chéri (Hoddjet) et les "tapous" délivrés par les autorités administratives, titres et "tapous" qui se trouvent en possession des propriétaires. Après avoir constaté l'authenticité de ces documents, la Commission s'est rendue à quelques-unes des fermes pour faire enquête sur les lieux en vue de vérifier ces documents par rapport aux terres respectives. La vérification faite sur quelques champs, la Commission a constaté que ces champs sont conformes aux indications des "tapous."

Les cultivateurs de ces terres interrogés s'ils ont quelques "tapous," ou titres, entre leurs mains, ont répondu que toutes les terres appartiennent à tel ou tel Agha, et qu'eux, les cultivateurs, sont des locataires, des Yaridjis, et des domestiques qui cultivent ces terres sous les conditions sous-indiquées. Les maisons qu'ils habitent, ont-ils répondu, sont aussi aux propriétaires des terres et pour lesquelles ils payaient un loyer déterminé par an, ou à son défaut et en compensation, exécutaient d'autres services pour les propriétaires. Ils ont déclaré de plus que c'étaient les propriétaires qui acquittaient les impôts "d'Emlak" (propriétés), et qu'enfin ils n'ont aucun titre entre les mains. Les locataires, les Yaridjis, et les domestiques à gage, sans cacher la vérité, ont dit ce qui précède. La Commission s'est rendue à quelques autres villages, où elle a reçu des réponses dans le même sens.

A la suite de ces investigations, les propriétaires ont été invités à présenter à la Commission tous les titres qui se trouvent entre leurs mains, mais ceux-ci se montrant méfiants, ne voulaient se dessaisir des documents avant que leurs droits soient assurés, et ont proposé de produire des copies des "tapous," légalisées (reconnues) par le Gouvernement Bulgare. Cette proposition n'a pas été acceptée, et le Président de la Commission a insisté sur la nécessité absolue que les propriétaires présentent ses titres en original. Néanmoins qu'on a acquiert la certitude que les propriétaires des fermes devenues plus méfiants encore à la suite de cette insistance, ne voudront pas donner les titres originaux, il a été décidé qu'ils doivent soumettre à la Commission une liste des "tapous," conformément au modèle proposé.

Là-dessus, après s'être rendue à quelques formes encore pour faire des enquêtes, et après quelques questions adressées et réponses reçues, M. Zancoff, Président de la Commission, a assemblé tous les locataires, Yaridjis, et les domestiques, et leur a notifié publiquement que quiconque avait entre les mains une portion quelconque de terres au moment de l'invasion de ces contrées par les Russes, il peut libéralement s'en approprier et les cultiver sans reconnaître nullement les ayants droit, ni leur donner des loyers ou des revenus; que ceux qui ont cultivé dans le passé des terres qui depuis ont été vendues ou louées au su même de Gouvernement Bulgare, doivent s'en approprier et les cultiver, et que les Chrétiens qui sont venus depuis deux ou trois ans de l'Empire Ottoman doivent avoir une partie nécessaire de terres des Musulmans. Il a ajouté que les biens ("Emlak") et les terres des Musulmans sont maintenant considérés comme des propriétés de l'Etat, et le Gouvernement s'occupera des prétentions de ceux qui aurait quelque droit à la possession.

Cette notification et cet agissement de M. Zancoff ont désespéré les ayants droit, et les veuves, et les pauvres qui ont deux deunumes de champs, de vigne, ou de jardin.

Etonné et surpris de ce procédé, je me tais pour le moment, en attendant ce qui en résultera. A ce que je crois, les ayants droit ont dû référer les procédés contraires au Traité et à la justice, faits par M. Zancoff en hauts lieux, à Constantinople, aux Ambassadeurs, et à votre Excellence.

Moi, de mon côté, je soumets à votre Excellence, comme il précède, ce que j'ai constaté *de visu*.

No. 2.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

E

(No. 31.)

Sophia, April 18, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 16th instant on the subject of the complaints of the Turkish landed proprietors at Kustendil, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter addressed to me by Mussulmans of Samakoff, who complain that they have in vain attempted to obtain possession of their property in the neighbourhood of that town, which is held by the Bulgarian authorities, who appropriate the revenues.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 2.

Letter addressed to Mr. Lascelles by Turks of Samakoff.

Samakoff, le 12 *Avril*, 1881.

Excellence,

NOUS, Soussignés, avons l'honneur de vous exposer que depuis que l'administration Bulgare fut instituée dans nos pays, nos propriétés qui se trouvent aux environs de notre ville Samacoff sont retenues par les autorités Bulgares.

Nous possédons ces propriétés, qui consistent en une montagne nommé Djebel Kela, avec des documents que nous tenons de nos pères et de nos aïeuls. Ces lieux de pâturage pour les troupeaux nous appartiennent donc, c'est par eux que nous nous nourrissions et maintenions aussi nos familles.

Nous avons vainement réclamé jusqu'à présent notre droit de propriété, on ne nous a rien rendu.

Selon le Traité de Berlin chacun est maître de ses propriétés, et nous nous sommes tellement réduits en réclamant ce droit, soit au Ministère, soit au Prince lui-même, que

nous sommes maintenant dans la plus déplorable situation, étant privés de l'unique soutien que les revenus des susdites places nous procuraient.

On nous a fait perdre le temps en de vaines attentes, et sans avoir obtenu aucun résultat jusqu'à présent, nous voyons chaque année les autorités Bulgares s'emparer des susdits revenus.

C'est la cause qui nous empêche d'entreprendre aucune affaire, ni même de bouger de place; jugez par-là de notre misère, et de la disgrâce complète arrivée sur nos familles.

La générosité de votre Excellence et la protection que vous offrez à tous ceux qui font partie de l'humanité, sont si reconnues que nous venons avec confiance solliciter de vous un secours qui puisse sauver nous et nos enfants de la misère.

Prenez à votre choix le chemin qui vous semblera le meilleur pour nous sauver du cruel état où nous sommes, et pour qu'on nous reconnaisse propriétaires.

Dans l'espoir fondé sur votre inépuisable bienveillance que vous daignerez nous accorder un secours, nous avons l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) ARIF HIKMET.
HACHIM MOUSTAPHA.
MEHMED HACHIM.
MEHMED NEIM.
RIFAT.
NAZIMI.

No. 3.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 318.)

Constantinople, April 25, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of Dervish Pasha's Proclamation to the North Albanians.

Mr. Consul-General Blunt sent me the Proclamation in the original Turkish, inclosed in his despatch No. 38 of the 10th instant (copy of which he forwarded to your Lordship), but he could not procure a translation of it in time to send me with his despatch. This translation, which I have had made here, renders the spirit of Dervish Pasha's Proclamation in so happy a manner that I think that your Lordship may like to read it. I have sent a copy to Mr. Kirby Green.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Proclamation by Dervish Pasha.

(Translation.)

THIS is a Proclamation containing some advices and injunctions in conformity with an Imperial Iradé, and addressed to the inhabitants of the country of all the Guègues.

I came out here invested on the part of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan with an extraordinary and general military command, in order to protect your rights, interests, and honour, and, moreover, to put a stop to the occurrence of some evil doings arising out of interested foreign instigations and insinuations, which the Sublime Porte cannot but view with feelings of sorrow and deep concern.

All my efforts and exertions will have no other scope but that of contributing to your well being and happiness in conformity with the high views of our august Government.

It is a matter of great importance that in the present position of affairs, and when the frontier question has reached its most delicate stage, the disturbances occurring in Albania, and which were even before this a cause of anxiety to the Sublime Porte, should come at last to an end. Moreover, when it is well known even to you that if the source of such a state of things is carefully examined it will prove to be nothing else but foreign intrigues and instigations, the Government has no alternative but to take the most severe steps against those who, without any regard for the difficulty of the position in which our Empire is actually placed, do not refrain from perpetuating such an unsatisfactory state of things. The execution, therefore, of this decision having been, by the will of Providence, intrusted to me, an old soldier who was brought up in camps and passed his life in the midst of strife and battle, I entertain the hope that you will not make an old soldier like

me feel the necessity of resorting to the severe steps contemplated in the decision of the Government, and that, by taking into serious consideration its orders and generous advices, you will make obedience, and by such a lawful and becoming conduct put to shame and confusion the enemies of the Empire. In such case I promise, in the august name of our glorious Sovereign, that I shall see to the execution of every kind of reforms not adverse nor prejudicial to the interests of the Empire, the Government, and the country, and that no exertions be spared in promoting your welfare and happiness, as well as your material and intellectual progress.

If, on the contrary, it becomes evident that, instead of taking advantage of the generous dispositions of the Government, you make an attempt to disobedience, in contravention to the law, in such a case, let your means of resistance be whatever they might, since you would thus give preference to the instigations of the enemies of the Empire of foreigners and bad wishers over the effective advices of the Government, and since you would be considered as disobeying the magnanimous decrees of our glorious Sovereign and as attempting an open revolt, you should deserve thereby the severest punishment prescribed by law against disloyal subjects, and I declare that while I received the trust of making the desired reforms, I was likewise invested with the power of inflicting the punishment alluded to here above.

You have been made aware now of the serious nature of the mission intrusted to me, and I like to believe that you will adopt the line of conduct that I shall trace on the part of the Government, and by making your utmost not to depart from it you will not disgrace your old father-soldier before the eyes of his august master.

(Signed) The Commandant Extraordinary of the Army on the Greek Frontiers and Dependencies.

Djemazi-ul-Ewel, 1298.

No. 4.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 2.*)

(No. 236.) *Berlin, April 30, 1881.*

My Lord,

I HAVE communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 197 of the 21st instant, inclosing Mr. Lascelles' No. 23 of the 21st March and the Circular of the Bulgarian Government, in which attention is called to the danger to public security caused by the presence of foreign vagrants in Bulgaria, and in which a mode of dealing with the matter is suggested, which General Ehrnrooth considers would enable the Bulgarian Government to rid the country of dangerous persons, and at the same time maintain the guarantee due to foreigners; and I have asked his Excellency what view the German Government took of the General's proposal.

In reply, Count Stirum told me that the German Government saw no objection to it if it met with the sanction of the other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 5.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 2, 11 A.M.*)

(No. 196.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1881, 10·30 A.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

IMPERIAL Iradé accepting decision of Powers was sent yesterday from Palace to the Porte after German Dragoman's visit. We ought to receive note in the course of to-day.

No. 6.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 5.*)

E

(No. 46.) *Scutari, April 23, 1881.*

My Lord,

ON Easter Monday, Abdi Pasha, the Military Commander here, called on me and informed me that he had received, the previous evening, a telegram from Dervish Pasha,

announcing his peaceable entry that day into Prisrend, and that the inhabitants of the town had delivered to him their late Governor and leader, Shaïb Agha, who had attempted to escape to the Mountains of Luma. I told the Pasha that I had already heard of his telegram, but that in discussing it with some influential Mussulman natives I had been warned not to believe it. The General smilingly replied that, nevertheless, in a few days all the hopes of the disaffected here and elsewhere would be dispelled.

However, as I have already had the honour of telegraphing to your Lordship, the arrival yesterday of the Italian Franciscan monk from Prisrend has confirmed the conviction of the natives, for, as recently as four days ago, Dervish Pasha was still at Verisovič, where he had arrived on, or about, the 13th instant.

I have now ascertained that the opposition to the re-establishment of the Ottoman authority appears to have been reduced and localized, by the astute proceedings of Dervish Pasha, to the districts of Prisrend, Jacova, and Luma; those of Kalkandelen, Pristina, Ipek, Novi-Bazar, and Gusinjé having intimated their willingness to obey the orders of the Sultan's High Commissioner.

Lower and Upper Dibra, by remaining passive, have further marked the isolation of the three rebellious districts, and these perhaps would too have hastened to tender their submission, did they not feel that they may be called upon to suffer for the active part taken by them in the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha.

The insurgents have assembled at Stimlja in a strong military position but a few miles from Verisovič, the nearest station of the Mitrovitza-Salonica Railway, and the present head-quarters of Dervish Pasha, who is said to have with him twelve infantry battalions, and the necessary proportion of artillery.

The Albanian camp is computed to number upwards of 15,000 men, and I am assured that they are almost solely armed with Enfield rifles or with the old native flint-lock muskets, and that they do not average more than thirty rounds of ammunition each. This defective armament has arisen from the fear of the Albanians of losing their breech-loading rifles, which they have left at home; and their argument that if they are successful they will obtain an ample supply of new arms from the troops, and if beaten that they will have saved their highly-prized breech-loaders, promises but ill of their determination to resist at all hazards.

The three districts of Prisrend, Jacova, and Luma are accounted to have a population of 130,000 souls, and competent authorities, knowing the manner in which calls to arms are answered in these regions, believe that from 20,000 to 23,000 fighting men may be collected together for a short time. I however, with perhaps less actual local knowledge, but considerable experience of Albanian military levies, am still disinclined to estimate the number at above 12,000 or 15,000.

Besides the very brave and powerful Mahommedan mountain tribes of Crasnič and Gosič, the Christian clans of Nikaï and Merturi, and the Jacova fraction of the Fandi Mirdites, form part of the insurgent camp, together with numerous Christian peasants—many only armed with pistols—who have felt it prudent not to furnish, through their absence, an excuse for punitive pillaging.

From all sides it is admitted that, since the expulsion of the Ottoman authorities from Prisrend, the natives who replaced them have shown considerable administrative abilities and a great sense of justice and religious tolerance, but I have not been able to ascertain that any clear idea of permanence, or ultimate government, had been developed at either Jacova or Prisrend, or at any other of the centres where, until within a few days ago, Albanian views were held.

The simplest discussion of the establishment of an independent or autonomous Principality immediately gave rise to dissensions and personal jealousies among all the prominent men, and whilst Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, possibly fancied himself the person most worthy for selection as Prince, Shaïb Agha, of Prisrend, and every other Albanian-appointed functionary, imagined, or still imagines himself to possess equal claims for supreme power.

Since the appearance of Dervish Pasha in the Kossovo Vilayet, most of the nobles and those who had taken an active part in the so-called Albanian League, on the strength of being Ottoman functionaries, have withdrawn from the popular movement, which has now descended to the masses, and is led by men who have brought themselves into prominence by acts of violence or insubordination.

The attractions of the new order of things to the people are, no doubt, the immunity from the conscription and heavy taxation which they have enjoyed for the last two years, and the national satisfaction felt at not being obliged to share the recent humiliations of the Sultan and his Government.

Still, whilst the Albanians are encamped at Stimlja, and have guarded the passes

leading from Kalkandelen and Scutari, they tolerate at Prisrend the presence of two Turkish battalions of infantry, under the command of a Lieutenant-Colonel. One of these battalions garrisons the castle, and the other occupies barracks in the town. Shaïb Pasha, or Agha, the Albanian Governor, lately declined to continue to supply these troops with wheaten bread, and said they must submit to the same Indian corn fare as the Albanians; but the Colonel refused it, saying that he had sufficient biscuit in the castle, and at the same time intimated that on the first sign of actual resistance against Dervish Pasha, he would retire all his soldiers into the castle, and commence to bombard the town.

Although the Prisrendians secured, when they expelled the Mutessarif, a battery of Krupp field-guns, which was kept in the Government konak, it is doubtful whether they are capable of using them, and perhaps there may be truth in the rumour that the Turkish artillerymen had time to carry away with them certain essential parts of the breech-pieces.

Should Dervish Pasha's attempt to sow discord among the insurgents be less successful than he has a right to expect from all Albanian precedents, and force him to proceed to active operations, I believe he will find no difficulty in overcoming all resistance, by causing the Ottoman troops which are already at Novi-Bazar and Mitrovitza to advance by the friendly districts of Ipek and Pristina. In fact, I think it may be fully expected, if he is unfettered by restrictive instructions from Constantinople, that he will subdue the North-east Albanian insurgents as easily as those of North Albania on the Dulcigno heights.

In conclusion, I can safely say that, notwithstanding the adhesion of the majority of the different districts of Albania to the Ottoman administration, the entire people secretly sympathizes with, and hopes for the success of, the resistance of Prisrend and Jacova, and that any untoward accident to Dervish Pasha or his troops may suddenly gain for the insurgents the support of all their countrymen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 7.

E *Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 5.)*

(No. 53.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April* 22, 1881.

WITH reference to the intelligence which I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship and Mr. Goschen yesterday and to-day announcing a collision between the Albanian rebels and the forces of Dervish Pasha not far from Verisovitz, on the Salonica-Mitrovitza railway line, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, the substance of two telegrams which were received here yesterday evening relative to the same subject.

I also inclose the translated extract from a recent letter from Uscup furnishing some items of information concerning the present situation.

I have heard from a trustworthy source that the aggregate of the three brigades actually operating against the Albanians does not exceed 12,000 men (all Anatolians), including 1 regiment of cavalry and 20 mountain-guns. The Albanians, although armed with Martini-Henry rifles and well provided with small ammunition, have no artillery, and are unable to make head against the advance of Dervish Pasha, who appears to have made an abundant use of his mountain-guns.

A letter has also been received here from the scene of hostilities stating that there are many "Latin" Albanians (Roman Catholics) among the rebels.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 7.

Substance of two Telegrams received at Salonica from Verisovitz.

(No. 1.)

(Traduction.) *Verisovitz, April* 20, 1881.

L'ARMÉE a marché contre les insurgés ce matin vers les 5 heures. La brigade d'Osman Pacha a pris la gauche, celle de Moustafa Pacha la droite, et celle d'Ibraïm Pacha, avec le Commandant-en-chef et son Etat-Major, le centre. L'armée s'avança à 5 kilom.

du camp, en se déployant contre les insurgés. Ces derniers tâchèrent d'occuper les hauteurs à gauche d'Ibraïm Pacha, le centre, mais Osman Pacha les attaqua avec sa brigade et les força, après un combat de quinze minutes, à prendre la fuite. Les Albanais ont eu beaucoup de morts et un chiffre considérable de blessés.

L'armée continua à avancer en ordre de bataille vers Stimlja, lançant des boulets contre l'ennemi en déroute.

(No. 2.)

Verisovitz, April 20, 1881, *soir.*

Les brigades d'Osman Pacha, Ibraïm Pacha, et Moustapha se sont rencontrés à Stimlja après avoir complètement battu les insurgés, qui ont eu beaucoup de morts et blessés par le feu d'artillerie. En se retirant, les Albanais ont tâché d'occuper les hauteurs au delà de Stimlja, mais furent empêchés par l'artillerie. Toute l'armée, avec le Commandant-en-chef, se trouve actuellement à Stimlja, et demain continuera sa marche sur Prisrend. Le meilleur esprit règne dans toute l'armée, et la victoire a été acclamée par des hourras frénétiques des soldats.

Inclosure 2 in No. 7.

Translation of a Letter from a Correspondent at Uscup, dated April 20, 1881.

L'AUTORITÉ militaire a engagé hier 250 chevaux pour transporter des munitions et bagages des troupes qui sont destinées pour Prisrend.

Ce soir nous avons appris que l'armée de Dervish Pacha à Verisovitz, voulant avancer sur Prisrend, a été opposée par les Albanais, qui ont réussi à enlever quelques chevaux chargés des munitions et biscuits. On dit aussi qu'il y a eu des engagements, et cela paraît vrai, car ordre est arrivé ici de tenir prêt, pour marcher demain, trois bataillons de notre garnison.

Il est dit aussi que les Albanais, dans leurs pourparlers avec Dervish Pacha à Verisovitz, ont déclaré leur dévouement au Gouvernement Impérial, mais qu'ils veulent avoir des employés et fonctionnaires Albanais au lieu des Turcs.*

Le Binbashi de Police d'Uscup, qui s'était enfui à Prisrend, a été livré à Dervish Pacha, qui le tient sous arrêt.

No. 8.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April* 23, 1881.

IN continuation of my Reports on the subject of Dervish Pasha's operations against the Albanians, I am assured that his Excellency suspended all conciliatory action towards them, and decided to resort to extreme measures immediately after the exchange of the inclosed telegrams between him and the League of Prisrend.

It is relevant to the subject to report that an Albanian, with whom I have conversed on the situation of affairs in his country, more especially in connection with Dervish Pasha's mission, told me that the fact of that Pasha having been intrusted with Albanian relations would very likely lead to bloodshed, as the Ghega tribes had no confidence whatever in his word, he having proved most treacherous in all his dealings with the Albanian Chiefs in connection with the cession of Dulcigno to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

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* *Vide* Consul-General Blunt's Report No. 43 of March 28, 1881.

Inclosure 1 in No. 8.

The Albanian League of Prisrend to Dervish Pasha.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Prisrend, le Avril*, 1881.

C'EST avec regret que nous voyons, nous qui sommes de la même religion, fils de la même patrie, fidèles sujets de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et qui travaillons pour le bien-être de l'humanité, que notre seul désir de nous réunir afin de nous entendre a été si accueilli.

Vous nous envoyez un corps d'armée afin de nous écraser; nous, appuyant donc sur notre droit, nous vous informons que nous comptons nous défendre jusqu'au bout.

Notre contente est parfaite, et Dieu est avec nous.

Inclosure 2 in No. 8.

Dervish Pasha to the Albanian League of Prisrend.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.) *Camp de Verisovitz, le Avril*, 1881.

J'AI reçu le télégramme que vous avez adressé à ce commandement.

Les habitants de Prisrend prennent-ils plus à cœur l'intégrité de notre patrie que notre Sultan? N'est-il pas connu de tous combien il prend à cœur la sécurité du territoire et de ses sujets?

Sa Majesté vient de former sept corps d'armée; ce qui doit vous faire comprendre combien il a à cœur l'intégrité de notre patrie.

Quand notre Maître se donne tant de peine, ne serait-il pas religieusement obligatoire à nous tous de le seconder, tandis que vous répondez les armes à la main!

Est-ce que le soldat n'est pas votre frère dans la religion, et ne travaille-t-il pas pour nous sauvegarder la patrie? Si, pour la défense de cette patrie, vous vous séparez de vos frères, vous devenez coupables à une grande faute, car celui qui n'obéit pas son Souverain n'obéira pas à son Prophète, et il reniera son Dieu.

Moi, humble serviteur de notre auguste Maître, j'espère encore, malgré mon âge avancé, vous amener à la raison, et établir la paix parmi nous, et sauver le pays de tristes conséquences des actes haineux de vos ennemis, ceux dont vous suivez les conseils; et j'espère encore que les habitants de Prisrend m'enverront quelques délégués pour traiter avec moi la grave question qui nous divise, et ainsi arriver à un même but. Croyez-moi, il est temps d'ouvrir les yeux, et de ne plus se laisser guider par les conseils de quelques mauvais instigateurs. Réunissez-vous; répondez-moi vite, car le repentir ne vous servira à rien!

Note.—Pour toute réponse à ce dernier appel les Albanais ont fait savoir qu'ils se battraient, et qu'ils opposeraient la marche de l'armée.

No. 9.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 5.)

(No. 55.) *Salonica, April* 23, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. of the 18th instant, on the subject of the prevalence of brigandage in the Nahié of Niausta and other districts in Macedonia, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further letter from the British subject, Mr. Salomon Juda, stating that the arrival of troops at Niausta had reassured the inhabitants.

The brigand Chief Nicko perpetrated last week a horrible act of revenge, an account of which I inclose, on a Christian villager of Niausta, who was employed by the Turkish military authorities to watch his movements.

The band of seventy Bulgarians who, as reported by my telegram of the 21st instant, crossed the frontier in the direction of Djuma, is under the leadership of Kukulis, the same individual who was engaged in similar proceedings in the Sandjak of Serres during 1879-80; and the Italian Consular Agent, in his despatch of the 17th instant confirming the above intelligence, states his having heard from well-informed sources that other bands of robbers were preparing to renew their incursions into Macedonia from the direction of Dubnitza in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Mr. Juda to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonique, le 22 *Avril*, 1881.

M. le Consul-Général,

JE viens par la présente vous prier d'accepter mes respectueux remercîments pour les promptes démarches que vous avez fait à la suite de ma lettre du 17 courant au sujet de l'état du brigandage à Niausta.

Dans une lettre que je viens à l'instant de recevoir de mes agents à Niausta, je suis informé que la tranquillité y commence à régner, grâce à l'arrivée des troupes et aux mesures exécutées par les autorités Impériales, et que la confiance renaît entre les habitants.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) SALOMON JUDA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Memorandum respecting the horrible Cruelties committed by Nicko.

(Translation.)

NICKO and his band having recently crossed over to the mountainous district of Caraferia and Niausta, with the object of effecting the capture of a rich Turk, Bessim Bey, paid a villager of Niausta who accepted to act as spy.

The latter not having kept his promise, and knowing Nicko's whereabouts, gave notice to the Commander of the troops, whom he guided to the brigands' hiding-place. The troops surrounded the brigands, 13 in number, and began firing on them; 2 brigands were killed, as well as 2 soldiers. Nicko, with the rest of his band, escaped, and after a few days he succeeded in seizing the peasant spy.

He cut off his right hand, his nose, one of his ears, and his tongue, and forced him to carry them tied up in a bag to the Mudir of Niausta, with a message to the following effect:—"Nicko thus deals with spies and traitors." The villager, suffering from loss of blood and the cruelties he had been subjected to, expired an hour after he had delivered the bag and the message to the Mudir.

April 22, 1881.

No. 10.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 6.)

E
(No. 47.) *Scutari, April* 25, 1881.

My Lord,

TO-DAY the authorities have again announced that they have received official news of Dervish Pasha's entry into Prisrend, and the natives are evidently more disposed to believe the report than was the case ten days ago.

As I have already had the honour of stating to your Lordship, I have very little doubt that Dervish Pasha will, in any case, master whatever opposition is still being shown to the Ottoman administration, but whether any permanent advantage is likely to result from his success for the country is quite another question.

Here, in the Vilayet of Scutari, no attempt whatever has been made to profit by the readiness evinced by the population, immediately after the enforcement of the Dulcigno arrangement, to accept all and every measure or desire emanating from the Turkish authorities. On the contrary, a wish appears to have existed to efface from the memory of the people all recollections of the strength of which the Government had shown itself possessed, and now at this moment Scutari, it may be fairly said, is again governed by a small clique of Albanian Mussulman Notables, under whose guidance the Vali has placed himself; and peaceable native Christians are kept in a constant sense of terror by a gang of bullies, who levy black mail on them by threats of murder and other outrages.

After the re-establishment of Ottoman troops and functionaries at Prisrend and Jacova, Dervish Pasha will probably be withdrawn, and every effort will be made to prove to the natives that the Turkish administration, while clement through innate indolence, can no more be changed or reformed than it can be got rid of.

The inheritance, however, which will have been made by the whole country through

the momentary existence of the Government-created League, is a most dangerous one. It is that of the armament of the population with breech-loading small arms.

The whole of the Mussulman portion of the inhabitants has been possessed, since 1876, of these weapons, but after the war, and during the evacuation of Bosnia and the Herzegovine, and the calling into life of the Albanian League, a vast number of rifles and endless cartridges were allowed to fall into the possession of irresponsible persons. They are now being sold at prices within the reach of the very poor, and are so numerous that purchasers can select the system of breech-loader they prefer.

As an instance, I may mention that when, in July last, a Mirdite contingent passed through Scutari for Tousi, it was nearly solely armed with flint-lock muskets. I am now informed, on positive authority, that more than half the Mirdites have since procured for themselves Martini-Peabody rifles, purchased either at Prisrend, Jacova, or Dibra, for about 50*s.* each. Cartridges for these arms can be bought in all Albanian bazaars at 8*d.* the dozen.

The present movement, which is disappearing, has been more Mussulman than Christian, and has, for this very reason, offered less serious obstacles to the Porte; but as it is probable that the latter will not put into execution any reforms, there can be no doubt that, sooner or later, the Christian tribes, instigated by their co-religionists in the towns, will assume the lead in demanding an amelioration of their state, and then, being most likely thoroughly armed, will be found by the Turkish Government less facile to subdue than the Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 11.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April 26, 1881.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday's date to your Lordship and Mr. Goschen, announcing the occupation of Prisrend by the forces under the command of Dervish Pasha, I have the honour to transmit herewith translated copies of two telegrams from that General to the Pasha of Salonica on the subject of his movements against the Albanian League.

My correspondent at Uscup informs me that the Austro-Hungarian Consul for Prisrend, who has been residing at Uscup these last four months, immediately he heard of the arrival of Dervish Pasha at Prisrend, telegraphically applied to his Excellency for a military escort to accompany him to that place, where he was anxious to resume his Consular duties, and that Dervish Pasha returned an answer suggesting that he should put off his journey for the present.

Considerable activity has been observed of late in the movements of the Austro-Hungarian Consular officials in Macedonia. Agents have been sent by them to report upon the situation in Dibra; the Acting Consul-General at Salonica proceeded last week to Uscup and Verisovitz to watch and report upon the movements of Dervish; the Consul at Uscup has stationed his Vice-Consul at Verisovitz for the same purpose; and the two Vice-Consuls attached to the Consulate here have made several journeys into the interior. But these Consular officials have also exceptional facilities for procuring information on passing events in the interior through the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway Staff, which is chiefly composed of Austrians, some of whom have seen military service.

The station-masters along the whole line are Austrians; they are in secret correspondence with the Austro-Hungarian Consulate at Salonica, through their Chief Manager, who is also an Austrian, and as all the stations are telegraphically connected with each other and the Manager, my Austrian colleague is regularly and abundantly supplied with political information from the principal centres of interest in the interior, and I know for certain that he and his subordinates have extensively availed themselves of these sources of information in connection with Albanian affairs.

The engagement of the 20th instant in the defiles of Stimlja (Turkish, "Istimia"), leading from Verisovitz to Prisrend, seems to have been somewhat serious so far as the Albanians are concerned, for they lost between 300 and 400 men in killed and wounded, whereas the Turks had only 2 killed and 31 wounded; the latter were sent by special train to the military hospital at Uscup.

Several Albanian Chiefs were killed, and an eye-witness of the engagement states that the great disparity in the loss on either side was caused by the artillery-fire of the Turks.

The same informant saw one of the rebel Chiefs hanged on the battle-field by order of Dervish Pasha, and he also observed that the Albanian wounded were humanely treated by the Turkish troops.

Nine of the leading Chiefs of the League, among whom are four Pashas, have surrendered at discretion to Dervish Pasha, viz.: Elias Pasha, of Dibra; Sadik Pasha, of Dibra; Mufti Yonouz Effendi, of Dibra; Zia Bey, of Pristina; Mufti Effendi, of Pristina: Mufti Effendi, of Vucitrin; Ali Draga, of Mitrovitza; Sadik Pasha, of Kalkandelen; and Hassan Pasha, of Kalkandelen.

I am assured that Lower and Upper Dibra, which can furnish more than 20,000 armed men, took no part in the late engagement at Stimlja, and that the rebel forces opposed to Dervish Pasha were in great part composed of Mussulman and Latin Ghegas from Kalkandelen, Kalchanik, Prisrend, Ipek, and Djacova.

After their defeat they retreated, as I reported in my telegram of the 22nd instant, to Ipek and Djacova, where Dervish is about to pursue them, as they refuse to capitulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Translation of two Telegrams from Dervish Pasha to the Governor-General of Salonica, relative to the Operations against the Albanians.

(No. 1.)—*Dervish Pasha to the Vali of Salonica.*

Verisovitz, April $\frac{8}{20}$, 1881.

EARLY this morning I marched with the Imperial troops against the reptiles [*sic*] who, although I repeatedly summoned them in the name of His Imperial Majesty to offer their submission, took up a position in the defiles of Istimia (Stimlja), and resisted with arms in their hands the Sultan's authority.

On our approaching them they fired on the Imperial troops, who at once attacked, destroyed, and forced them to fly [*sic*].

I have pardoned, in the name of His Majesty, those who have come in and offered their submission from the surrounding villages.

We are grateful to God's protection and to the favour of His Imperial Majesty for this victory.

I march upon Prizrend with the Imperial troops.

(No. 2.)—*Dervish Pasha to the Vali of Salonica.*

Prisrend, April $\frac{11}{23}$, 1881.

According to my telegram of the $\frac{8}{20}$th instant, after dispersing the reptiles [*sic*] at Istimia (Stimlja), I marched upon Prizrend. I now inform you that, with God's help and the favour of the Sultan, I arrived here (Prizrend) yesterday with the Imperial troops. The whole population came out spontaneously to meet and welcome us, and with willingness testified their submission to the Imperial troops and authority.

Prizrend and the surrounding country are perfectly quiet.

No. 12.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April 27, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that on Monday morning, the 25th instant, four desperate Bulgarian brigands, belonging to the band of the notorious Chief Tzerné, went to Perlepé, a town about six hours from Monastir and twelve from Kiuprulu, and effected an entrance into the house of the Local Government Treasurer or Accountant (a native Bulgarian), whom they seized and bound, and then proceeded to ransack the house.

In the meantime the Kaïmakam,* upon receiving notice of the occurrence, went

* Abdulrahman Effendi, a native of Salonica.

immediately to the spot and surrounded the house with his police. He summoned the brigands to surrender, but was answered by a volley which killed two of the policemen and a relative of the Kaïmakam. This so exasperated the Mahommedans that they seized their arms with the intention of attacking the Christian part of the town, and it was with great difficulty that the Kaïmakam, who appears to have acted with courage and energy, averted this danger. He succeeded in directing the fury of the mob against the brigands, and, with their assistance, regularly laid siege to the house. The brigands made a desperate resistance, and killed two Christians who assisted the authorities.

The Kaïmakam at last resorted to the measure of setting fire to the house, and in effecting this another Turk was killed.

The besieged held out until the house was enveloped in smoke and flames, when three of them rushed forth, and, in endeavouring to cut their way through their assailants, were shot down. The fourth perished in the flames, but, strange to say, the inmates of the house escaped unhurt.

The above details have been furnished to me by a person who arrived this evening from Perlepé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 13.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

E
(No. 342.)

Constantinople, May 2, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a translation of a Turkish document purporting to be a petition addressed to me by the Albanian League at Prisrend, requesting my support with the Ottoman Government in endeavouring to obtain the union of the four vilayets into which Albania is at present divided into one vilayet, to be called "Arnaoutlik."

This paper reached me by the Austrian post, and the seal of the envelope in which it was inclosed was broken.

I venture to call your Lordship's attention to this petition, as it seems to be interesting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 13.

The Albanian League of Prisrend to Mr. Goschen.

(Translation.)

IT is a well-known fact that the Albanian race, famous for its courage and bravery, has been from time immemorial free from all interference, and has lived in perfect freedom. But since by neglecting to maintain community of opinion, whether right or wrong, which is the best means of securing the unity of the Albanian race, and by failing to keep one fixed purpose in view, a number of districts in Albania have lately been enslaved by other nations, without a particle of right or reason, now the whole people, down to the very children, understand the danger which threatens the remaining portions of the country, and are grieved and affected in the highest degree.

As it is manifest that not one of the inhabitants of Albania will consent to this perilous state of things, they have found in community of opinion a means of securing their prosperity and guaranteeing their future, and have made the following resolutions:—

1. That as Albania forms a part of Europe, they are to enjoy the benefits of civilization and progress of all kinds, and to defend their country, their honour, and their nationality.

2. That they will live, as before, under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, which is their sovereign State.

3. That they have found their only means of safety to consist in the transformation of the four vilayets which constitute Albania into one vilayet, to be known as Albania ("Arnaoutlik").

With regard to this united vilayet, we have during the last four years presented numerous projects and petitions to our Sovereign the Sultan, but all our efforts have been

in vain. As the perils which menace our country are increasing from day to day, and the measures demanded by us for our country's good remain unexecuted, the Government officials understand that the desire for the removal of the danger which threatens the country is supported by nothing more powerful than the general feeling of the population. Thereupon they totally misrepresent our desires and objects, oppose the granting of our prayers, and class as rebels a people which is only seeking the safety and prosperity of its country.

Seeing Dervish Pasha advancing with a strong military force upon Prisrend, which is the chief centre of Albania, the Albanians, young and old, took up arms, and pouring more than 15,000 Albanian warriors into the camp at Cossova, stood on the defensive.

This regrettable state of affairs cannot be regarded as conformable to reason and propriety, and there can be no doubt that your country, so advanced in civilization, so firm in its respect of international law, so consistent in its maintenance of the rights of public opinion, and so strong in its laws based on the necessities of the human race, will defend our rights, as human beings and as a nation, in respect of the claims which we have considered just. We therefore beg, in the name of humanity, that you will represent our unhappy condition, we beseech your aid in obtaining the consent of the Ottoman Government to our demands, and await your answer. We assure you that we will take no steps in excess of the points enumerated above, but will remain in peace and amity with the neighbouring Governors.

(Seal of the Prisrend League.)

April $\frac{8}{15}$, 1881.

No. 14.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

E
(No. 346.)

Constantinople, May 3, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 260 of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I learn from the Bulgarian Agent that no decision has yet been come to with respect to the Office of the Ottoman Government with which he is to correspond.

M. Balabanoff continues to address his communications to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who, on his side, continues not to acknowledge them. On the $\frac{7}{19}$th ultimo, M. Balabanoff had an interview with the Prime Minister to urge again the importance of a recognition of the right of Bulgaria to be treated in the same manner as Servia and the Roumanian provinces were treated before the late war. Said Pasha appears to have met M. Balabanoff's observations in a friendly spirit, and gave him to understand that the affair would shortly receive an early and a favourable solution.

Since then M. Balabanoff has heard nothing further, but he has ground for hope that he will eventually gain his point. In the meanwhile, he has requested that I would again take an opportunity of impressing upon the Ottoman Government how desirable it would be that no further difficulty should be made in recognizing the rights of Bulgaria to correspond with the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 15.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 238. Confidential.)

Vienna, May 4, 1881.

My Lord,

THE Emperor having expressed to me the great satisfaction with which he had seen the manner in which the Ambassadors at Constantinople had worked together, and had justified the confidence reposed in them by their Governments in leaving so much to their discretion in dealing with the difficult questions they have treated so satisfactorily, I took the opportunity of mentioning to His Majesty that I had had a letter from Mr. Goschen speaking very highly of Baron Calice, and saying that he would be glad if I could make His Majesty's Government aware of how much he appreciated his colleague.

The Emperor said that it gave him the greatest pleasure to hear how Mr. Goschen had spoken of Baron Calice, of whom he had himself a high opinion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 16.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May* 1, 1881.

THE inclosed extract from a letter from my correspondent at Serres confirms the information which I reported in my despatch No. 54 of the 23rd ultimo on the subject of the revival of brigandage in that sandjak.

The "Salonica Gazette" of the 28th ultimo also publishes the substance of an official telegram from the Governor of Serres, reporting to the authorities here that the Circassian, Jussuf Agha, Captain of Police, and his detachment composed of ten men, were surprised and all killed by the brigands, about 100 in number, under the leadership of Kukulis, who recently crossed over from Bulgaria.

A further telegram from the Governor of Serres has been received by the Pasha of Salonica, stating that the troops who were subsequently sent in pursuit attacked Kukulis and killed twenty-one men of his band.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 16.

Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres.

(Extract.) *April* 22, 1881.

BRIGANDAGE again is on the alert, and now that the trees and bushes are becoming leafy and the warm weather is propitious, unless the authorities take active and stringent measures it is feared this scourge will again revive.

Lately a Circassian, Jussuf Agha, who was appointed last summer to chase the brigands, was informed that the Bulgarian villagers secreted 2,000 sheep to avoid paying the "agnam" (sheep tax). Jussuf Agha took his party with him, consisting of nine Circassians and two Albanians, to proceed to the spot. On the way, some two or three hours distance from Demir-hissar, near Krushevo, he and his party were waylaid, some say by the band of Kukulis, others by that of Zembil. The brigands kept under cover, and when Jussuf Agha's party arrived he was attacked suddenly and killed, and all his men besides. The corpse of Jussuf Agha was decapitated and his head carried away as a trophy. Troops were sent in pursuit, and a small engagement took place at Lower Vronda; the result is not known.

It is rumoured here that in the district of Cassandra a Turkish Bey was kidnapped, and, moreover, an Englishman, Mr. Suter, who had troops with him, and that a heavy ransom is demanded from the latter.

No. 17.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May* 1, 1881.

HAVING no correspondent at Prisrend, I am unable to furnish your Lordship with any trustworthy information on the proceedings of Dervish Pasha, and the general state of affairs in that district.

It appears, from all I learn from Turkish sources, that Dervish Pasha at present confines himself to re-establishing the Turkish Administration in the Vilayet of Cossova and the Sandjak of Prisrend. He has, telegraphically, summoned all the functionaries who were dismissed by the Albanian League to return to their duties; and Ahmet Hifzi Pasha, who has been appointed Governor-General and Commander-in-chief in the Vilayet of Cossova, is expected here by to-morrow's steamer from Constantinople.

I also learn from my correspondent at Uscup that the Albanians in that and other towns of the Vilayet of Cossova are quiet and submissive.

At Prisrend, also, it seems that no disturbances have occurred, and that confidence has been restored by the presence of Dervish Pasha, for several native merchants arrived here from Prisrend by last night's train for the purpose of making purchases from the local depôts.

One of these merchants has informed me that Dervish Pasha has concentrated his troops in Prisrend, and so far made no movement against Ipek or Djacova, and that he is endeavouring by conciliatory means to induce Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, and other Albanian Chiefs, to offer their submission to the Sultan's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to Mr. Wyndham.

(No. 260.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 11, 1881, 5·20 P.M.

INFORM Russian Government that the Queen will appoint Sir E. Thornton to be her Ambassador at St. Petersburgh whenever Lord Dufferin is appointed to Constantinople. I have already ascertained through Prince Lobanow that the appointment will be agreeable to the Emperor.

No. 19.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 48.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 29, 1881.

FOUR days ago I learnt, through a confidential source, that very active communications were going on between Dervish Pasha and the authorities here, concerning Abdul Bey Phrassari, who had been quite recently with the Albanian Chiefs at Prisrend, and who was now supposed to have passed into Mirdicia, for the purpose of reaching the coast and effecting his escape from the country.

Two battalions of Nizams were immediately dispatched from this for Alessio and Tirana, on the plea that they were to relieve those already in those districts, but in reality to be prepared should too much sympathy be shown by the natives for Abdul Bey; and yesterday Hadji Osman Pasha received the news that the fugitive had been arrested at Durazzo, notwithstanding the precautions he had taken of cutting his beard and disguising himself as a Gheg,—he being a Tosk.

I have no doubt that the arrest arose through treachery, the price of 5,000 piastres having been placed by Dervish Pasha on Abdul Bey's head, and Albanians being seldom able to withstand tangible temptations.

The position held by Abdul Bey among the Mussulman Epirotes is so influential, through his talents and educational advantages, that it is possible the Ottoman Government will abstain from extreme measures of punishment against him, especially as many of Abdul Bey's relations and partisans are already in safety in Greece, and may by the present arrest be kept quiet, through fear of endangering his life.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 20.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 30, 1881.

TO-DAY all the uncertainties of the Mussulman natives of this Province, with regard to the success of Dervish Pasha in the Kossovo Vilayet, have been set at rest.

Persons have arrived from Prisrend, and recount that the Ottoman troops overcame the Albanian insurgents, exceeding 10,000 in number, at Stimlja, on the 20th instant, and that Dervish Pasha marched into Prisrend on the afternoon of the 22nd.

The resistance was only obstinate on the side of the contingent from Ipek, which,

contrary to the information previously given me, did form part of the rebels. Its loss is said to have exceeded 300, whilst that of the district of Jacova did not amount to thirty, although two of its most prominent Bairaktars, or standard-bearers, are included in this number of killed. The volunteers from Prisrend and Luma appear to have retreated before the fight commenced.

Dervish Pasha's arrival at Prisrend has, as was expected, put a complete end to all further resistance on the part of the North-east Albanians.

Jacova immediately obeyed a summons it received to send the tithes of last year to Prisrend, and letters from Christians, both at Ipek and Jacova, announce that the bazaars have been re-opened there, under a desire to prove that their populations are most anxious to resume their former peaceable avocations.

I think there can be no doubt that Dervish Pasha's success is complete, although, singly and in confidence, every Mussulman Albanian is ready to declare that the Pasha and his Sultan are infidels and traitors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 21.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 216.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 12, 1881, 2 A.M.*

M. TCHERAZ MINASSE, whom I am instructed to help officiously if in danger of persecution, tells me that he is not safe, and that Armenians are being imprisoned. He wishes to obtain honorary employment at this Embassy as translator or interpreter, with a view to efficient protection. I am inclined to think there are objections to such a course, but would be glad to know your Lordship's wishes, as I know M. Teheraz has many friends in England.

No. 22.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 315.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1881, 3·33 P.M.*

YOUR despatch No. 241 of the 29th March.

Montenegrin Boundary Commission was to have resumed its labours on the 15th instant, but it seems useless for it to meet without settled programme.

What is your opinion as to length of postponement necessary to enable you to come to an agreement with your colleagues and Porte as to future proceedings?

Do you require Captain Sale at Constantinople; if so, when?

No. 23.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 12, 9·30 P.M.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 12, 1881, 3·45 P.M.*

BULGARIAN Government have decided to recall M. Zancoff from the Agrarian Commission, to reform Commission with the view of securing impartiality, and to abide by the Article of the Constitution which forbids expropriation except after payment of a just indemnity.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 24.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 341. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 12, 1881.*

IN your despatch No. 241, Confidential, of the 29th March last, you stated that you had been in communication with the Russian Ambassador with regard to Captain Sale's suggestions as to the future proceedings of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission, and

that you had informed your other colleagues that you had instructions on the subject, and that it would be necessary to take the matter into consideration.

As your Excellency is aware, the Commission appointed its first meeting for the present season for the 15th instant, but it seems useless for it to reassemble without any settled programme for its procedure; and I should wish your Excellency to give me your opinion as to what delay would be necessary to enable you to come to an agreement with your colleagues and the Porte as to the future proceedings of the Commission.

Captain Sale will be ready to proceed to Constantinople to furnish your Excellency with detailed information upon the various proposals with regard to the frontier to the north of Lake Scutari whenever you may consider his presence desirable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 25.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 51.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 3, 1881.*

IN Dervish Pasha's Proclamation to the Ghegs, or Northern Albanians, issued in the early part of last month, when the General was about to commence his operations in the Kossovo Vilayet, and which has probably been already communicated to your Lordship by Mr. Goschen, it will be observed that the onus of the disaffected condition of the country is entirely and repeatedly placed on intrigues and instigations from abroad.

I now learn that Dervish Pasha, in telegraphing his instructions for the arrest of Abdul Bey Phrassari to the different authorities in Albania, was careful to mention that the Bey was endeavouring to escape to England, a matter which, if true, need not have been published to ignorant subordinates.

I also understand that, when I was in Montenegro, pending the settlement of the Dulcigno question, the Turkish General carefully circulated the report in Scutari that I was the chief instigator of Albanian troubles, and that, consequently, the Porte would object to my return to this post.

From the above and other similar facts, I think it right to point out, that if the Turkish Government countenances the inconsiderate and groundless accusations of its High Commissioner, it is only preparing for itself another pitfall, at a moment when it is emerging with such labour from difficulties really having their sole origin in itself.

I have so frequently had the honour to report to your Lordship on the birth and progress of the Albanian League, and foreshadowed the present outcome, that I will merely here state categorically that Hussein and Nazif Pashas, Turkish Valis, and not foreigners, formed the League out of clerks and notables in Ottoman employ, who were quite beyond the influence of strangers.

Dervish Pasha, too, before launching his accusations against foreigners, could easily have ascertained that none had been allowed to remain in the disaffected districts. The Consuls had been forced to retire from Prisrend; the Austrian Dragoman had been murdered there by the retainers of the League; Slav schoolmasters and priests had been executed and tortured; and the supremacy, in all cases, of the Shiriat, or Moslem law, had been re-established.

Such proceedings hardly support his theory of foreign machinations, although they resemble much the working of Mussulman fanaticism, of which Dervish Pasha has never been known to constitute himself an opponent; and his present accusations, I think, are eminently calculated to produce, under the auspices of the Ottoman provincial authorities, a hostile feeling against foreigners, and to develop into acts which can only again plunge the Porte into difficulties with the Powers.

If Mr. Goschen should attach any value to this impression, I would strongly urge that the Turkish Government should be firmly made to understand that its authorities will not be allowed to escape from the supervision permitted by the Treaty of Berlin, and the best way to counteract discontent in Albania is by endeavouring to raise it to the level, in all particulars, of the countries which adjoin it, and not to foster ill-will towards foreign Governments and their Agents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 26.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 224.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1881, 11·50 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 315: Montenegrin frontier.

No necessity for Captain Sale to come to Constantinople. The case is clear enough if it were only dealt with. But my colleagues have been waiting for previous conclusion of present Greek negotiations. I presume Her Majesty's Government have no particular object in forcing on the question if other Governments prefer waiting. But I am consulting colleagues again.

No. 27.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 243. Very Confidential.)
Vienna, May 9, 1881.

My Lord,

HOBART PASHA, who has been here for a few days on his way to England on leave for family reasons, appears to consider himself charged with a semi-political mission from the Sultan, of whose entire confidence he believes himself possessed.

It is certain that ever since the Conference at Berlin he was largely consulted by the Sultan, and that he strenuously counselled the rejection of the frontier fixed by the Powers when many of His Majesty's principal advisers recommended its acceptance.

No blame can properly be attached to the Admiral for the course he followed upon that occasion, for though he recommended resistance to the demands of Her Majesty's Government, if he was consulted by the Sultan, he was bound to give the Sovereign he was serving the advice which he believed the best for his interests; and I mention the fact merely to suggest that, as Hobart Pasha is never apt to under-estimate his own importance, it is possible that he may imagine himself to have much more influence over the Sultan than he really possesses, and also that he is assuming a political importance to which he may scarcely be entitled.

I learn that he has had a long conversation with Baron Haymerle, which he looks upon as most interesting and important.

He did not conceal from his Excellency that Austria was looked upon with distrust and suspicion at Constantinople, and Baron Haymerle did his best, apparently with much success, to persuade him of the groundlessness of this feeling.

He appears to have urged Hobart Pasha to point out to the Sultan that in all that had recently taken place Austria had shown herself better disposed towards Turkey than any other Power, and that it was mainly owing to her refusal to take part in measures of coercion that harder conditions than those now obtained had not been extorted; that the maintenance of the Turkish Empire was an object of interest to Austria-Hungary for her own sake, as it had formerly been, and as he believed it would again come to be, considered for the interest of England also, but for the present the former was unquestionably the most friendly.

Hobart Pasha alluded to the difference of the course that had been pursued by the British and Austrian Governments with reference to the contemplated occupation of Smyrna, in a manner to make me believe him to suppose the Austrian Government to have been opposed to that measure.

I told him that this was an entire mistake, as Austria, though for reasons of her own declining to take part in that operation, had given it her fullest assent, and I reminded him that it was the certainty of its being carried into execution which alone had induced the Sultan to fulfil his Treaty obligations with regard to the Montenegrin frontier.

I said that, being satisfied of the wish of the Austrian Government for the maintenance of the Turkish Empire out of regard to their own interests, I should rejoice if he succeeded in removing from the Sultan's mind some of the unnecessary distrust which he admitted to be lurking in it, but I must protest against his assumption of the enmity of Her Majesty's Government, which would be found among the best friends of the Turks whenever the Sultan was seen to be loyally carrying out his engagements, and seriously occupied in improving his administration, which he had practically destroyed by his system of personal government.

Hobart Pasha tells me that the Sultan intends to make him Minister of Marine as

soon as he returns to Constantinople, and he will thus have a seat in the Council of Ministers, where it may be feared his advice will not always be the most prudent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 28.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 16.)

E
(No. 247. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 10, 1881.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I have the honour to inform your Lordship, confidentially, that I have reason to know the recent nomination of M. Hitrovo as Russian Agent at Sophia to have been extremely offensive to the Prince of Bulgaria.

His objections will be readily understood by all those who are acquainted with M. Hitrovo's antecedents.

He held various Consular appointments during the time I was at Constantinople, his reputation being so indifferent that no one was surprised when large defalcations in a public chest under his control brought him into such disgrace that his future employment, even by the Russian Government, which is not fastidious in such matters, was believed to be impossible.

He is a near connection of General Ignatiew, through whose reviving influence his appointment to Sophia, in spite of the Prince's protest, is considered to have been carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 29.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 16.)

(No. 257.)
Berlin, May 12, 1881.

My Lord,

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 210 of the 27th ultimo, I communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs the correspondence therein contained on the subject of the representations which have been made to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia on behalf of certain Mussulman proprietors against the provision of a new Law passed by the Bulgarian Chamber, and the proceedings of a Commission at Kustendil acting under that Law.

In acknowledging the receipt of your Lordship's communication, the Minister for Foreign Affairs said that Prince Bismarck did not intend to interfere in Bulgarian affairs while the people were considering the important Constitutional questions which Prince Alexander had called upon them to decide.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 30.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 17, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 235. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 17, 1881, *noon.*

THE name of Midhat Pasha has been much mentioned in connection with Abdul Aziz inquiry. I learn privately from Smyrna that an Aide-de-camp of the Sultan arrived there with orders to keep Midhat in view. I further learn, but cannot vouch for the correctness of the information, that French and Italian Consuls have volunteered to give Midhat an asylum in their Consulates, if any attempt should be made to arrest him. My informant, alleging to write with Midhat's sanction, asks whether instructions could not be sent to British Consul to give asylum in case of necessity, or to have gun-boat near which might take a passenger on board without asking questions.

I think the matter extremely delicate. If it were right to take action to protect

Midhat, my own feeling is that it should be done by making Sultan responsible before Europe for a fair trial in case of the arrest of a statesman of such European standing.

This would, I think, be preferable to assisting him to escape, but Her Majesty's Government will have to consider whether any interference in the present case is desirable.

No. 31.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 17, 2·45 P.M.)

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 17, 1881, 2·30 P.M.

FRENCH Ambassador informs me that Midhat Pasha took refuge last night at French Consulate, his house having been surrounded by troops. Sultan sent an Aide-de-camp this morning to French Ambassador to say that he hoped that French Government would not refuse to surrender a criminal at common law. He has telegraphed to Paris for instructions, but thinks he will have to surrender Midhat Pasha.

No. 32.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 17, 4 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Smyrna, May 17, 1881, 1·30 P.M.

LAST night Midhat Pasha, finding his arrest suddenly threatened by a large force, escaped to French Consul, throwing himself on the protection of all the Powers.

His claim was accepted unanimously by the Consular Body until receipt of instructions from any of their respective Governments. Unusual method of attempted arrest made him dread consequence wherever he fled.

Heline [?] Pasha is appointed his successor.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 33.

E *Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.*—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 54.)

Scutari, May 7, 1881.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH there is now nothing in the question of the completion of the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontiers of a pressing nature, and I entirely concur in Captain Sale's suggestion that an agreement should be arrived at to render valid the decisions voted by a majority of the Boundary Commission, still I deem it right to report to your Lordship that a very favourable opportunity is offered at present, through the success of Dervish Pasha's proceedings in North-east Albania, for the termination in that direction of the delimitation of the Principality.

I am also confirmed in the belief that the Roman Catholic mountaineers in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza would quietly accept whatever frontier the Porte would loyally agree to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 34.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18, 2·40 P.M.)

(No. 239.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 18, 1881, 2·12 P.M.

WITH reference to Consul Dennis' telegram of yesterday repeated to your Lordship, my colleagues are unanimously of opinion that Consuls were hasty in accepting Midhat Pasha's claim for protection of Powers. I have not telegraphed to Consul, as I presumed your Lordship, on the receipt of his telegram, would send instructions.

Aide-de-camp of Sultan came to me this morning to express a hope that protection of Powers would not be continued to an individual who was implicated, not in a political

conspiracy, but accused of murder of a man who was no longer a Sovereign, but a private individual.

I understood from the Aide-de-camp, who is in Sultan's confidence, that a public trial is intended by the ordinary Courts. I informed Aide-de-camp that I telegraphed for instructions, but that personally, while I thought that even for the Sultan's sake every guarantee should be given for the fairest and most public trial, I agreed with my colleagues, who were unanimous in thinking that Midhat Pasha must stand his trial.

Aide-de-camp informed me that Nouri Pasha, the Sultan's brother-in-law, had confessed. Midhat Pasha's name was implicated, but he was at present simply in the position of a suspected person, who must stand his trial with other persons implicated.

No. 35.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 338.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 18, 1881, 7·40 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 239 of the 18th: Midhat Pasha.

No instructions have been sent to Consul Dennis, as it was understood that Midhat had taken refuge in the French Consulate.

Her Majesty's Government concur with you that Her Majesty's Consul would not be justified in protecting Midhat from legal proceedings of his own country, and you may so tell Consul Dennis.

We think it should be made clear to the Porte that we do not doubt that Midhat will have a fair trial and proper treatment.

No. 36.

Earl Granville to Sir J. Walsham.

(No. 293.)

Foreign Office, May 18, 1881.

Sir,

COUNT MÜNSTER referred to-day to the position of the Mussulman proprietors in Bulgaria.

His Excellency said that Prince Bismarck was of opinion that they were being badly treated, but that he considered that action in their favour should be postponed until the result should be known of the step taken by Prince Alexander in issuing his recent Proclamation, as the Prince was himself disposed to do justice to his Mahommedan subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 37.

E *Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.*—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 23.)

Philippopoli, May 7, 1881.

My Lord,

MR. STEPHEN, in his despatch to Mr. St. John of the 15th January last—Inclosure 1 in No. 154, "Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey, No. 4 (1881)"—mentioned in detail certain measures taken by the Roumelian Government to obtain peaceable possession of the villages in the Rhodope which, although lying within the Roumelian frontier, have not yet recognized the authority of this Government. The Turkish Representative, on that occasion, went through a certain form of cession, which, however, in no way forwarded or simplified the task of annexation; and up to the present time these villages (twenty-four) continue to enjoy complete independence, and, paying taxes to no one, are naturally well satisfied with their situation.

From a fear to risk the recurrence of scenes similar to those at Kirdjali and Aïdos, the Roumelian Government has, up to the present time, refrained from asserting its authority over the district in question, entailing thereby a loss to the Provincial Exchequer of about 4,000*l.* annually. A more serious evil is, however, the disorder and anarchy which may arise, at any time, in a country where no paramount authority is recognized. Fortunately, hitherto, Eastern Roumelia has been singularly free from the presence of robber bands, owing, no doubt, to its comparatively well-ordered Government and its efficient gendarmerie,

but it is to be feared that, when efforts are at length made to establish order in Macedonia, the brigands which infest that province may seek a shelter in the Rhodope, and from thence carry on their depredations among the peaceful and industrious inhabitants of this province. In order to be prepared for this contingency, it is much to be desired that the Porte should conscientiously use its influence to induce the reluctant population to submit quietly to the Roumelian Government, in order that a strong and efficient frontier guard may be stationed on the border-line, and co-operate with the authorities in Macedonia to restore and maintain order and tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 38.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 10, 1881.*

MY recent reports to your Lordship of the success of Dervish Pasha's pacification of the Kossovo Vilayet are being hourly more and more confirmed.

General Hadji Osman Pasha now occupies Jacova with two battalions and a battery of mountain artillery. The submission of Ipek is equally complete, and Ali Pasha of Gusinjé, who had joined Dervish Pasha at Prisrend, was, it is officially alleged, so well able to establish his loyalty to the Sultan, and abstention from all participation in the proceedings of the League, that he has had a life pension of 3,000 piastres conferred on him, and has been appointed Ottoman Kaïmakam of his native district, to which he has already returned.

The Gusinjiotes have equally found grace in Dervish Pasha's eyes, and on the distinct and safe assurance that they are not to be ceded to Montenegro, have promised to pay all arrears of taxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 39.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 10, 1881.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the day before yesterday the Slav Orthodox priest of Prisrend was sent here from that place by Dervish Pasha in charge of one of his Aides-de-camp, and was yesterday dispatched across the frontier to Podgoritza.

Hadji Osman Pasha, the Vali of Scutari, informs me that the priest had taken an active part in the proceedings of the Prisrend League, and that it has been thought prudent to remove him from his native district, where he had become an instrument of foreign intrigues.

Although I have also lately heard from my Austrian colleague, M. Lippich, that there is strong reason to suspect that the Albanian League in the Kossovo Vilayet was under the direct control of Russians, I have the greatest difficulty in believing this to be the case, for it is hardly to be presumed that the Slavophil plans are so intricate as to oblige the Serbs on the frontiers of Montenegro and Servia to suffer for the general good the barbarities and plunder recently perpetrated on them by the Albanians.

My experience of Dervish Pasha is that he is always disposed to quiet his conscience for any harsh measures he is obliged to carry out against Mussulmans by abusing and persecuting the Christian communities within his power, hence the present expulsion of an unfortunate priest, who probably signed all the public acts of the Albanian Committees under fear and compulsion, as was the case with the Roman Catholic clergy, but who, happening to be foreigners, are somewhat beyond the reach of the Turkish General's malevolence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 40.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 57. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 10, 1881.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 55 of this day's date, I venture to submit to your Lordship whether it would not be well, in view of the apparently complete re-establishment of Ottoman authority in the Gusinjé district, to urge the Porte to admit the prudence of terminating as speedily as possible the delimitation, in that direction, of the Montenegrin frontiers.

If there should be the slightest foundation for the suspicion that the League has been supported by the Russians, or that Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé, is, as is asserted by some, a secret agent of the Austrians, the closing of every pending question on these frontiers becomes the more imperative.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 41.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 58. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 10, 1881.*

FROM certain communications which have been lately passing between the Porte and Hadji Osman Pasha, the Roman Catholics of Scutari fear that an attempt is about to be made to accuse them of plotting against the existing state of things, and to secure the return from Constantinople of the Mirdite Chief, Prenck Bib Doda.

There can be no doubt that the Christian, and even Mussulman, Albanians would be greatly pleased by the introduction of reforms in the administration of the province, and it is true that within the last ten days a mass meeting of the mountain tribes was held near Alessio to discuss their present state of abandonment by the Government, whereby they are exposed to oppressions and exactions of the lawless; but it is also certain that no intention exists of provoking anew the anger of the Turkish Government, and that at a moment when Dervish Pasha has further proved his capacity of dealing with the most powerful of Albanian organizations.

However, to forestall the attack which the Roman Catholics believed Hadji Osman Pasha was preparing against them, they determined to send a telegraphic assurance of their fidelity to Constantinople, but, before doing so, a deputation was sent to inform me of their intention.

As I have always found the Vali much disposed to take into consideration the advice I occasionally offer him, I suggested that the Roman Catholic community should defer exculpating itself with the Porte, until I had ascertained whether it was not possible to come to an understanding with the Pasha, and I am glad to say that I believe I have opened a means for a complete understanding, for the moment at all events, between the two parties.

I think it, however, right to report to your Lordship that I have observed the existence of a considerable fear on the part of the Turkish authorities, that the native Christians are being influenced, either by the Austrian or French Consuls here, into attempting to oblige the Porte to name Prenck Bib Doda to a high official position in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 42.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Smyrna, May 18, 1881.*

THIS afternoon Midhat Pasha, on faith of telegram from Minister of Justice assuring him of personal safety, and that trial would be conducted strictly according to law, and that himself would come to Smyrna to preside, surrendered to authorities.

(Sent to Embassy.)

No. 43.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 20.*)

(No. 242.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 19, 1881.

IF we sign Convention on Sunday, will you authorize me to start as soon as usual ceremonies of leave-taking permit?

Will you also be good enough to send me instructions as to presenting Mr. Plunkett as Chargé d'Affaires till Lord Dufferin arrives?

No. 44.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 340.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 20, 1881.

YOUR telegram No. 242 of yesterday.

You are authorized to leave Constantinople as soon as you think you can properly do so, and you may present Mr. Plunkett as Chargé d'Affaires.

No. 45.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 21.*)

(No. 66.)

Salonica, May 9, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, marked Confidential, which Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting a conversation he had with Halil Bey, the Civil Governor of Thessaly, relative to the state of public feeling as regards the annexation of that province to Greece.

From all I observed during my mission in Thessaly in 1878-79, and from what I have since heard from some of the leading Turkish land-owners in that province, who generally call at Her Majesty's Consulate-General when passing through this place on their way to and from Constantinople, I also entirely concur in the opinions reported in Mr. Longworth's despatch with regard to the disposition manifested by the Thessalian Mahommedans to submit to their incorporation into the Greek Kingdom.

In my despatch from Thessaly to Sir Henry Layard, dated the 28th August, 1878, I more particularly referred to the yielding temper evinced by the Mahommedans in that province in connection with the rectification of the Greek frontier; and from all I have since heard, it appears that the lapse of time, and the certainty (which I have always tried to impress upon them) that the Great Powers would eventually effect this measure, has accustomed and reconciled them to the impending change.

I have no doubt that if the Greek Government will treat them at the outset of the occupation justly and generously, it will experience no difficulty in dealing with them, particularly if it takes care to intrust the local administration to functionaries who are acquainted with the Turkish character, language, customs, and prejudices, to pursue a conciliatory policy towards the Mahommedans, and vigilantly to guard them against the unfair treatment their co-religionists experience in Bulgaria.

One of the officials most likely to carry out this policy is M. Logotheti, my Hellenic colleague at this place. He is thoroughly acquainted with the Turkish character, and during the long period he has served as Consul in European Turkey, especially in the Vilayet of Monastir, he has given proof of an unbiassed mind which has gained for him the confidence of all classes and creeds.

As an instance of his standing in the country, I may mention the fact that when he waited on Dervish Pasha on the recent passage of that General through Salonica to North Albania his Excellency gave him a most flattering and cordial reception, and remarked, in the presence of a large number of visitors, "Though war should take place between Turkey and Greece, peace and friendship shall always subsist between my old friend M. Logotheti and me."

Again, Zecheriah Pasha, an influential Turk, and principal land-owner in the Vilayet of Monastir, who came to Salonica about three weeks ago to settle a difference he had

with one of the local merchants, spontaneously appealed to M. Logotheti, begging him to act as arbitrator in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 45.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

(Confidential.)

Larissa, May 4, 1881.

Sir,

A REPORT has been put here in diligent circulation that the Turkish authorities were forcing the Christian inhabitants of Thessaly to furnish petitions against the annexation of the province to Greece, and I consequently called the other day on the Civil Governor to make inquiries on the subject. Halil Bey replied that it is absurd to suppose, as some people did, that either he, or any official dependent on his instructions, could be guilty of such "an act of folly," as almost the entire Greek and Vlach populations in Thessaly are well known for their Hellenic predilections, and it would be a useless waste of time and trouble for any one to attempt to prove the contrary.

On asking whether he could explain to me the cause which could have occasioned these rumours, his Excellency observed that they may have originated from the recent proceedings of the Mufti and the Archbishop's agent at Pharsala; the one, he added, an insane Mussulman, and the other an unscrupulous Greek, who of their own accord, and without consulting the wishes of the people, signed, sealed, and forwarded to the Porte a protest against the annexation of their district to Greece.

I remarked that it seemed to me the Mufti of Pharsala is a very unsuitable person for his post, and that possibly in these critical times he may have the power, as well as the will, to incite the Mussulmans to acts of violence against the Christians.

His Excellency did not think there is any cause for such fear, as the information he had gathered about the individual is apt to show that he is more foolish than dangerous; but he promised, however, to see that he in future restricts himself to only such matters as lay exclusively within his functions.

In answer to my question as to whether his Excellency thought that the Mahommedans, who number to some 40,000 souls in the territory proposed to be ceded to Greece, would show any opposition to the rectification of the frontier, Halil Bey expressed the opinion that their political aspirations were very vague and uncertain, but that, on the whole, he fancied they would not be disinclined to the annexation if sufficient guarantees were given that their social and religious rights would be respected. He believed, moreover, that the poor were indifferent on the subject; while the rich were fully aware that an increase in the value of their estates, as well as other advantages arising from peace and prosperity, would accrue to them by a change to Hellenic rule.

I entirely concurred with his opinions, and I obtained his consent to report them to your Excellency as also coming from him, on condition that the communication will be considered as strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 46.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 21.*)

(No. 67.)

Salonica, May 10, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the house of M. Hadji Zaphiri, in Chevgheli, a township on the Salonica Railway, and about 45 miles from here, was attacked on Thursday night last, the 5th instant, by a band of more than sixty brigands, composed of Tosca Albanians, most of whom recently deserted, it is said, from the "Muvakat" (temporary) police, which was organized under the administration of the late Governor-General of Salonica, Abédine Pasha.

M. Zaphiri and his son made a most gallant and determined resistance, and succeeded in beating off their assailants.

An account of the occurrence is given in the inclosed translated copy of a letter which the British subject, Mr. James Rogotti, has received from M. Zaphiri's son, and commu-

nicated to me with a request that I should urge the authorities to dispatch troops to the spot and take energetic measures for the protection of M. Zaphiri.

M. Zaphiri is a native Greek under Turkish protection, but as he has been acting since January 1879 as Mr. Rogotti's agent in raising silkworms in Ghevgheli, I complied with the above request in an unofficial manner, having regard to his Turkish nationality.

The new Military Governor, Lieutenant-General Salih Pasha, to whom I mentioned the matter, told me that having already received a telegraphic confirmation of the occurrence as described in the letter to Mr. Rogotti, he had made arrangements to dispatch by a special train 150 troops to Ghevgheli; and he also, at my suggestion, kindly promised to send a military doctor to attend to the wounds of M. Zaphiri.

Mr. Rogotti has since heard from Ghevgheli that the above measures have been carried out, and that detachments of troops have been sent in pursuit of the authors of the outrage.

Further official reports, received yesterday by Salih Pasha, state that M. Zaphiri and his son, in their desperate fight with the brigands, killed no less than four and wounded six of them; and it appears that the brigands cut off and carried away with them the heads of their killed, for four headless corpses were discovered in a ravine a short distance from Ghevgheli.

My Austrian colleague has also addressed a representation to the local authorities, urging them to provide efficient protection to several Austrian subjects who are established at Ghevgheli in connection with the Salonica Railway.

It is with regret that I have to bring under the notice of your Lordship the perpetration of another serious act of brigandage in the district of Cassandra. On Saturday last, the 7th instant, a band of twenty-five Greek brigands attacked, in open day, Trohanlides, a small Turkish village not very far from Mr. Rogotti's estate called Sedhes, and about four hours from Salonica. After pillaging all the houses, twelve in number, the brigands carried off to the mountains ten of the Mahommedan villagers (seven men and three women).

Lieutenant-General Salih Pasha, who arrived here as Military Governor about a fortnight ago, is vigilant and trying to do his duty in affording protection to the inhabitants. In conversing with him on the subject, he appeared to me to fully recognize the grave nature of the situation, and to be of opinion that it requires special and separate treatment.

I believe he has recommended the Porte to disarm and send to their homes under military escort the Albanian "Muvakat" (temporary) police, and replace them by a gendarmerie to be organized on the same footing as the corps under Colonel Blunt in the Vilayet of Adrianople; and I understood him to say that he has suggested to the Porte that captured brigands should be visited with the extreme penalty of the law.

The numerous highwaymen and murderers who have been apprehended within the last four years have received lenient treatment from the local authorities, and it is a fact that within the same period no capital punishment has been witnessed in Macedonia.

With regard to the Albanian temporary police, I adverted in my report to your Lordship No 117 of the 24th October last to the general feeling prevalent against them. I now hear that Salih Pasha, since he assumed the command in Macedonia, has received and forwarded to the Porte no less than thirty-two petitions from Christian and Turkish villages in the interior, complaining of the misconduct of these Albanians, and praying his Excellency to recall them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 46.

M. N. Hadji Zaphiri to Mr. J. Rogotti.

(Translation.)

Ghevgheli, May 6, 1881.

Sir,

YOUR letters of the 20th and 22nd ultimo duly reached me, and at my father's request I answer you and announce to you the event that occurred in our family last night, and of which you have probably been already informed. Dreadful indeed it was, and thanks to God Almighty who gave us strength to get through the conflict. You of course know that we are in the habit of shutting the courtyard doors at about sunset. We accordingly did so yesterday evening. One of our servants had received orders to light a fire in the silkworm nursery, which is detached from our house, in order to keep an equal temperature. The other was occupied in cutting leaves for feeding the worms. Whilst so

employed one of the servants was seized by five or six brigands, who tried to learn from them where we were, whilst other brigands tried to open the courtyard door facing the new street.

It was exactly 9 o'clock P.M. My father, as usual, had stretched himself on the sofa and was taking his habitual nap, and I was sitting in the room. Then the other servant, hearing his comrade's cries, came to inform us of what was going on. What were we to do? We were at first thunderstruck, but encouraging ourselves mutually, we arranged that my wife and children should remain in the lower apartment and we in the upper one. My father and I took a Martini each with abundant ammunition. The brigands who came in at the door facing the new street gave the signal of their entrance into the courtyard by discharging their firearms, and then managed to open the door facing the old street for the others to come in. They all entered, firing at intervals and trying by means of hatchets to break open the door leading into the small courtyard of our house, but failing in their endeavours, two of them managed to get over the wall into this courtyard and open the door. We fired at them from the windows above, and we were answered from all sides by upwards of a hundred shots, for not only the two streets were crowded with them but our house was surrounded, and in every corner there were brigands occupying an advantageous position. When they got into the court yard they fired at us from below, and some with hatchets were trying to break open the door of the house. What could two men do against such a number of enemies? Notwithstanding this, Divine Providence came to our help, and I heard my father's voice saying, "Courage! don't despair, God will not abandon you, fire away!" And we kept on firing at them. They at last burst open the door and began rushing upstairs, and would have taken us had it not been for our active firing, which they evidently felt, for they made a sudden retreat with shouts and cries, followed immediately afterwards by redoubled firing from inside and outside. What a dreadful sight it was! The shots whizzing through the air, the streets and courtyard lighted up, the window frames and panes of glass all broken, the floor and roof as full of holes as a sieve, and my father, mother, wife, in the smoke and fire. Then I confess we began to despair, and my father stooping to pick up his cartridges that had fallen on a lower step was wounded by two shots fired by the brigands from below. The latter at once made a ferocious rush up the staircase, but were again repulsed by me with my Martini and my father with his yataghan. Thus with the Almighty's help we managed to get rid of them after two hours' desperate fighting.

A quarter of an hour later we sent for the doctor. A few minutes after his arrival we again heard firing from the new street, but at last we were left in peace, and shutting the doors the doctor proceeded to examine my father's wounds, which he declared not to be dangerous, the one being a small one on his foot, and the other one a little below his right shoulder. At daybreak, when we went down into the courtyard, we found in front of the door a hatchet, two ropes, two coats, a fez, a bag containing provisions, and three letters, the copies of which we gave to the Mulazim, who sent them to the Kaimakam. The street and courtyard were covered with empty cartridges. The railway engineer wrote to ask for troops for the security of this place. The following morning the Mulazim gave arms to upwards of thirty Turks and Christians to keep watch all night; he also sent us six Government rifles with ammunition.

Do all you can to get the authorities to send troops to protect us from farther molestation.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) N. HADJI ZAPHIRI.

No. 47.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

Salonica, May 10, 1881.

IN conformity with your Lordship's telegraphic instruction of the 30th ultimo with reference to Mr. Juda's case, which I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 51 of the 18th idem, I have informed Mr. Juda, and other British subjects similarly situated, that if they visit or remain in districts threatened by brigands, they will do so at their own risk, as Her Majesty's Government cannot undertake to secure their safety by ransoming them or by other means should they be captured.

The feeling of alarm and insecurity felt by the inhabitants in town and country is daily increasing. I inclose copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Alfred Abbott,

and of one from Mr. James Rogotti, both British subjects established at Salonica, and owning extensive landed property in the interior.

I have warned these gentlemen in the sense of your Lordship's instruction above referred to; and with reference to Mr. Rogotti's property at Neohori, in district of araferia (Veria), his Excellency Salih Pasha has promised me to send back to that locality a sufficient military guard for its protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Mr. Abbott to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, May 7, 1881.

Dear Sir,

M. GHICA came to me early this morning, and told me that he was advised yesterday evening that, it having been said that I was going out to my tchiftlik, sixty Albanians (Tosceas), who were harbouring about Ghevgheli, had the intention to go there and try to capture me. On account of this, he came early this morning to prevent my leaving Salonica by rail.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED ABBOTT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Mr. Rogotti to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonique, le 9 Mai, 1881.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance que l'Intendant de mon tchiftlik, Neohori d'Uramluk, dans le district de Carraferia, m'annonce que l'autorité militaire vient de retirer les soldats qui y étaient jusqu'à présent, en laissant ma propriété à la discrétion des malfaiteurs qui y abondent.

Je vous prie donc, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien faire les démarches nécessaires auprès l'autorité compétente afin qu'elle procure à rétablir promptement la garde des soldats pour éviter toute conséquence fâcheuse que je laisse à charge de qui de droit.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) J. ROGOTTI.

No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 70.)

Salonica, May 11, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, extending two telegrams I sent his Excellency on the 8th instant on the subject of the proceedings of Dervish Pasha in North Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Consul-General Blunt to Mr. Goschen.

Salonica, May 11, 1881.

Sir,

AS I telegraphically reported to your Excellency on the 8th instant, Shefik Bey, Aide-de-camp of the Sultan, attached for special service to the Staff of Dervish Pasha, arrived here from Prisrend on the 7th instant *en route* to Constantinople to report to the Sultan that Dervish Pasha meets with no further resistance from the Albanians, and is making satisfactory progress in the pacification of the country.

Shefik Bey was also the bearer of a petition to the Sultan, signed by Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé, and fifty-nine other Albanian Chiefs, offering their submission to His Majesty and imploring his clemency.

A visit which the Bey paid to the Consulate-General afforded me an opportunity of conversing with him on Albanian affairs; and all he said on the subject satisfied me that the information which I have so far reported to Her Majesty's Government respecting the proceedings of Dervish Pasha was generally accurate.

He also told me that Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé, voluntarily presented himself at Dervish Pasha's camp at Prisrend with professions of loyalty to the Sultan, and has been cordially assisting Dervish Pasha in his efforts to obtain the submission of the other Chiefs. It appears that all the leading men in North Albania have followed his example, with the exception of the Beys of Djacova, who still hesitated to place any trust in Dervish Pasha's overtures.

The notorious Tosca Albanian agitator, Abdul Bey Phrassari, was apprehended on the 3rd instant in the town of Elbassan, where he had concealed himself with a view of escaping to the Adriatic coast.

He has been sent under strong escort to Prisrend by order of Dervish Pasha, where he is to be tried by court-martial, as grave suspicions are entertained of his having been employed to intrigue in the interest of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 49.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 246.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 21, 1881.

YOUR telegram No. 340.

As I have no experience in such matters, please telegraph in what form I should put my departure to the Sultan—whether as the termination of my special mission, which I am charged to announce to him, or otherwise. I presume formal letters of recall will be necessary, but can be presented subsequently; but they might be sent by post to-day for the event of my not being able to leave before Thursday.

No. 50.

Consul Dennis to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(Telegraphic.)

Smyrna, May 21, 1881.

MIDHAT PASHA left Smyrna this morning for trial at Constantinople. Have informed Embassy.

No. 51.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. .)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 22, 1881.

BARON HAYMERLE is informed from Constantinople that the Russian Ambassador has [signified] assent of his Government to the proposals of Captain Sale about the Montenegro frontier, subject to certain conditions. He has answered that [?] though he would have preferred that everything should be definitely settled by the vote of the majority of the Commissioners at Scutari, the Ambassadors had been so successful in dealing with other and more difficult questions that he would not object to a reference being made to them, but he earnestly hopes that they may be allowed to decide without appealing to the Cabinets on such matters as the possession of a village or the destruction of an insignificant fort.

No. 52.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 46.)

My Lord, *Sophia, May* 12, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 30 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to report that General Ehrnrooth has informed the Doyen of the Corps Diplomatique that it was his intention to address a Circular to the Representatives of the Great Powers to inform them that the Government had decided to recall M. Zancoff from the Presidency of the Agrarian Commission sitting at Kustendil, and to reform the Commission with the view of giving a greater guarantee of impartiality. His Excellency added that the Bulgarian Government was determined to act in conformity with Article 68 of the Constitution, which does not admit of expropriation except upon prepayment of a just indemnity.

As General Ehrnrooth had not yet had time to prepare this Circular, he gave M. de Thielan a Memorandum, and requested him to communicate it to his colleagues.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of this Memorandum, the substance of which I communicated to your Lordship by my telegram No. 8 of to-day's date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Memorandum.

LES Agents étrangers ont à plusieurs reprises attiré l'attention du Gouvernement Princier sur les inquiétudes éveillées parmi la population Musulmane par les agissements de la Commission Agraire, présidée par M. Zancoff.

Le Gouvernement Princier dans ces circonstances s'est décidé de rappeler M. Zancoff de ses fonctions et de réformer la Commission dans un sens donnant plus de garanties d'impartialité. Le Gouvernement Princier a la ferme intention de se conformer dans la solution de cette question à l'Article 68 de la Constitution, qui n'admet l'expropriation que moyennant "une juste et préalable indemnité."

Sophia, le $\frac{20 \text{ Avril}}{12 \text{ Mai}}$ 1881.

No. 53.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 12, 1881.

IN accordance with the provisions of the Organic Statute, Article 72, one-half of the seats held in the Provincial Assembly by elected members become vacant on the 22nd of the present month, and the constituencies so affected are required to elect representatives to fill the same.

Of the ten seats occupied by nominees of the Governor-General—Article 74 of the same Statute—five in like manner fall vacant, but in all probability their present holders will continue to fill them as before.

As I had the honour to state to your Lordship in my despatch No. 20 of the 1st April last, considerable inconvenience has been found to arise from the practice of permitting Government functionaries to represent constituencies, in defiance of paragraph 82 of Organic Statute expressly forbidding it. The argument used in justifying this abuse is, that the number of adults in the province possessing even the rudiments of education is naturally very restricted (as might be expected in a country but just emancipated from slavery), that all, or nearly all, whose education fits them for public employ already serve the State in some capacity or other, and if Deputies are to be chosen from among the residue, the Assembly will in a great part be composed of ignorant peasants, ready, as in Bulgaria, to follow unthinkingly any one who may pander to their passions or prejudices.

However, in a conversation the Governor-General lately held with me on this subject, he expressed his earnest desire to see in the Assembly a healthy Opposition properly organized, which would, in no factious spirit, but from honest and patriotic motives, freely discuss and fairly criticize the acts and measures of the Ministry.

The silence or indifference of the Government employés under like circumstances does

not proceed from any fears that such independent conduct on their part might entail their loss of place, as the paragraph 491 of the Organic Statute suffices to protect them against such contingency, but proceeds rather from the usual sympathy and fellow-feeling which prompts those in office to unite for defence against those which are not.

The "Narodny Glas," a local organ of the extreme Nationalists, appeals to the electors in a recent article "to require in their representatives independence, impartiality, and honourable antecedents, exacting from them a formal promise not to solicit places, either for themselves or those connected with them," but at the same time "to refrain from binding them beforehand to any measures which might be made subservient to ambitious intrigue."

Among the representative seats which fall vacant on this occasion, three are held by the Directors of Finance, Justice, and Public Works respectively, and, judging from the precedent of the only election which has hitherto taken place, it is probable that these will not be re-elected. I need not remind your Lordship that such a result would not, however, affect their tenure of office, to which they have been nominated by the Governor-General, subject to the Sultan's approval.

Respecting these gentlemen, the following brief remarks on themselves and the Departments they administer may not be devoid of interest:—

Dr. Stransky, Director of Finance, is a physician by profession, and was educated partly at Constantinople and partly in Roumania. He has no special qualifications for the office he holds, which he owes to his pronounced Nationalistic sentiments and Unionist sympathies. These, in common with the rest of his colleagues, he has seen fit to modify materially since his accession to office. His present position would be a difficult one even for a trained financier, and he has further complicated it in depriving his Department of all skilled aid in the shape of foreign employés, by consenting to such a reduction in their salaries as forced them to seek service elsewhere. At the same time, the cadastres on which should be based the revenue estimates are not yet in existence, as the documents which could throw light on the subject were destroyed during the late war. The necessary measures have, however, been taken to supply the required details, and likewise to secure for the Department the service of an assistant, practically trained in the school of Western finance; the question of salary is the sole obstacle to his immediate engagement. The task of bringing order into the finances and strengthening the credit of the Government on this the weakest side of the Administration, will be much lightened if the present prospects of a bountiful harvest should eventually be realized.

The Director of Justice, M. Kessiakoff, served the Turkish Government formerly in the Fiscal Department of this province. He owes his present position to having served here as President of the Court of Appeal during the Russian occupation, and beyond this has had no experience of judicial duties. Indeed, there is not in the entire province a single native who has received a special education for the legal profession; the few lawyers and pleaders found here are Greeks, who have studied at Athens, and who hitherto have refused to accept official employment, finding their private practice so much more profitable.

This want of trained officials is felt most keenly in the Department, and an Assistant Conseiller, M. Matveeff, a Russian jurist of promising antecedents, has recently been attached to it, and steps have been taken likewise to educate Roumelian students for the legal service of the State in the schools of Austria and France.

The Director of Public Works, Dr. Voulcovitch, is likewise a physician, and served as such for many years in the Turkish army. The members of this profession may be said to represent, with few exceptions, the only educated class in the province, which accounts for the disproportionate number of physicians holding appointments in all branches of the Administration. In this Department there is, unfortunately, considerable stagnation, due partly to the want of funds, but also to the inefficiency of those in charge. In the minor branches some capable foreigners are employed, but as yet the province has benefited little from their services, and considering the multifarious duties this Department is called on to fulfil, the technical knowledge of at least an Assistant Director is manifestly requisite. One well qualified for the office might be found in the agricultural or engineering schools of the Austrian Slavic provinces, but the salary offered by the Roumelian Government has not been sufficient hitherto to acquire for the province the advantage of his scientific assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 54.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 381.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, May 14, 1881.

I HAVE received, and carefully read, the copy of Mr. Kirby Green's despatch No. 51 of the 3rd May, addressed to your Lordship.

Mr. Kirby Green says at the conclusion of that despatch that if I should attach any value to the impressions to which he gives expression, with reference to the action of the Turkish authorities, he would strongly urge that the Turkish Government should be firmly made to understand that its authorities will not be allowed to escape from the supervision permitted by the Treaty of Berlin, and that the best way to counteract discontent in Albania is by endeavouring to raise it to the level in all particulars of the countries which adjoin it, and not to foster ill-will towards foreign Governments and their Agents.

Mr. Kirby Green states, in another portion of his despatch, that he had foreshadowed the present outcome of the birth and progress of the Albanian League.

While I have at all times rendered full justice to the energy and intelligence of Mr. Kirby Green, I am bound to state that I have not shared the opinions he has constantly put foward with reference to the Albanian movement. He has, in my judgment, failed to recognize the strong national tendencies which have been developed, and has been at too much pains to show that the League was due to no national sentiment whatever, but simply to Palace machinations.

While it is certain that the Palace clique at Constantinople has at times played a very dangerous game as regards the Albanian League, I have, from the first, been under the impression that a feeling of Albanian nationality existed, and must be taken into consideration as a powerful factor in the present crisis, differing from the view of Mr. Kirby Green that if the word were only given from Constantinople all would be well.

With reference to Mr. Kirby Green's view that the Porte should be made firmly to understand that its authorities will not be allowed to escape from the supervision permitted by the Treaty of Berlin, I fail to understand to what Articles reference is made. It was stipulated that reforms should be introduced on the recommendation ("avis") of a European Commission, but no supervision was, so far as I can understand, permitted or even asked for. Such remonstrances as Mr. Kirby Green desires me to make would be entirely futile.

For my own part, as your Lordship is aware, I have considered it politically inexpedient that the Representative of Her Majesty's Government at Scutari should have been so constantly in communication with the Albanian Chiefs. It is possible that the Agents of other Governments have pursued a similar course, and, if so, it is not surprising, though it is most unjust, that the action of foreigners should be put forward by Dervish Pasha as having encouraged the Albanians.

It cannot be forgotten that a plan for reconciling the Albanians to the cession of Dulcigno by promises of reforms, attractive to the Albanians, but distasteful to the Porte, at one time formed a portion of the European programme.

Reforms should be urged in the strongest manner on the Turkish Government; but, to my mind, any remonstrance against the Proclamation of Dervish Pasha and similar documents would be of no practical utility whatever, while no such supervision over the affairs of Albania as is suggested by Mr. Kirby Green can be claimed by Treaty or be justified by expediency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 55.

E *Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)*

(No. 388.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, May 15, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 260 of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I again spoke to his Excellency Assim Pasha with respect to the change instituted by the Turkish Government in the channel of their communications with the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople.

His Excellency assured me that he hoped to arrive at a satisfactory settlement, but

that there were certain difficulties in the way. The Turkish Government by no means wished to hurt the susceptibilities of the Bulgarians.

I failed to gather from his Excellency's observations what policy the Porte really means to pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 56.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord,
Rome, May 16, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 162 of the 22nd ultimo, respecting the Regulations proposed by General Ehrnrooth for dealing with foreign vagrants in Bulgaria, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have been informed by the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs that the King's Government, considering that the said Regulations appear well judged and equitable, have signified their adhesion to the *modus procedendi* proposed by the Bulgarian Government, through their Agent at Sophia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 57.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 23.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord,
Rome, May 16, 1881.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 172, of the 27th ultimo, relative to the complaints of certain Mussulman landlords in Bulgaria against a new Law for ameliorating the condition of labourers, and the action taken by the Commission named by the said Law, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Italian Government, considering that the acts complained of are contrary to the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, have instructed their agent at Sophia to join in the friendly remonstrances to be made to the Bulgarian Government by the Representatives of the British and other Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 58.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 257.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, May 23, 1881.

YOUR unnumbered telegram of yesterday: Montenegro.

We are quite content to leave the matter to be settled by the Ambassadors.

No. 59.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 168. Extender.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 23, 1881.

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, in which you state that Baron Haymerle would not object to a reference to the Ambassadors at Constantinople of the question of the delimitation of that portion of the new Montenegrin frontier which is still undecided, I have telegraphed to you that Her Majesty's Government are quite content that the Ambassadors should be entrusted with the settlement of this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 60.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 412.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 24, 1881.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 199 of the 18th March, I have the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Memorandum which the Russian Ambassador has communicated to me, and the substance of which he has also communicated to the other Ambassadors, relative to the future proceedings of the Montenegrin Boundary Commission.

I am of opinion that no objection can be raised to the two first propositions in M. Novikow's Memorandum, viz., that the Powers should agree that this shall be the last deviation allowed, and that the Porte should accept as final the arrangement proposed by Captain Sale, and should promise to raise no further difficulties as regards the delimitation east of the Lake of Scutari, or elsewhere.

I fear it would at present raise difficulties with the Turks if we were to press M. Novikow's third proposition, viz., that the fortifications on Turkish territory near Podgoritza should be razed, in compensation for the fresh sacrifices demanded of Montenegro; and, as regards his Excellency's fourth proposal, viz., to alter the frontier-line in the Dinosch district, so as to prevent the Turks holding all the points commanding Podgoritza, I am of opinion that Captain Sale should be consulted before a decision is come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Memorandum on Russian Views respecting Montenegrin Frontier.

QUOIQUE la ligne proposée par le Commissaire Anglais s'écarte de celle projetée par les Puissances, le Cabinet Impérial se déclare prêt à l'accepter aux conditions suivantes:—

1. Que les Puissances s'entendent entre elles afin que cette déviation de leur tracé soit la dernière.

2. Que la Porte accepte la solution proposée par le Capitaine Sale, comme définitive, et promette de ne pas soulever de difficulté, non seulement quant à la délimitation à l'est du Lac de Scutari, mais, en général, quant au reste de la délimitation Monténégrine.

Comme compensation pour les nouveaux sacrifices imposées au Monténégro on pourrait admettre la demande, formulée antérieurement par le Prince Nicolas, de faire raser les fortifications sur le territoire Turc dans le voisinage de Podgoritza, et, en outre, porter la frontière de la Montagne Noire, dans le district de Dinosch, un peu plus au sud du point de Serc, afin de ne pas découvrir tout à fait la ville de Podgoritza en laissant tout les points qui la dominent de ce côté aux Turcs.

No. 61.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 384.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 24, 1881.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 277 of the 12th ultimo, in which you inclose copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli relative to the non-payment of the sum of £T. 1,200 which the Aidos Commission had recommended should be distributed among the plundered villagers of the district of Auchialo.

In his despatch of the 6th ultimo Captain Jones reports that the Permanent Committee of the Provincial Assembly have refused to give the necessary order for the payment of the indemnity on the ground—(1) That the Commission recommended that in indemnifying the Mussulmans their share in the attack on Bellova should be taken into consideration; (2) and that of the villages implicated in the work of plunder and destruction only one—Erketch—now belongs to Eastern Roumelia.

With regard to the first plea, it has been shown, not only by the information furnished by Mr. Brophy, but by the evidence given before the Commission, that no

previous notice had been given of the intended occupation of Bellova by the authorities, and that the Mussulman villagers were led to open fire on the armed Bulgarian peasants in the belief that they were brigands.

The second plea put forward by the Permanent Committee does not appear to justify the evasion of the liability of the province. The responsibility for the part taken in the affair by the inhabitants of the villages implicated would seem to rest with a Roumelian official, Dr. Yancoloff, late Prefect of Bourgas. It was by his instructions that the Gymnasts of Erketch and Golitsa were called out and dispatched to Bellova; and it was at his instigation that volunteers from the other villages were sent for.

Considering the circumstances which led to the appointment of the Aidos Commission, and the very small results obtained by it, the recommendations which it made should not be allowed to remain a dead letter; and I have to request that your Excellency will instruct Captain Jones to point out to the Provincial Government the inexpediency in the interests of Eastern Roumelia itself that these occurrences should be again brought into public notice, and to urge most strongly that there should be no further delay in distributing the sum recommended by the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 62.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 59.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 12, 1881.*

AS a tendency exists in certain quarters to consider the reports of the foreign Representatives in Montenegro as generally bearing too favourable a tinge for the Government of the Principality, I venture to place before your Lordship an extract of a private letter I have received from Colonel Lyon Fremantle, giving me the result of his observations, made during a recent visit in his yacht, on the administration of some of the newly-annexed districts by the Montenegrin authorities.

Colonel Fremantle's information may, perhaps, also be accepted as thoroughly impartial, through the fact that he did not go to Cettinjé, and therefore escaped what is frequently called the influence of Prince Nicholas' fascinating manners.

The daily return to Podgoritza, and the other ceded towns, of numerous families which had at first withdrawn to Scutari, furnishes a further corroboration of the satisfactory treatment of Mussulmans by the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Colonel Fremantle to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *"Bessie," at sea, off Island of Lesina, May 1, 1881.*

I, HOWEVER, paid very interesting visits to Duleigno, Antivari, and the various places in the Bocche di Cattaro.

I have been much struck by the interesting and entirely novel experiment undertaken by the Montenegrins in relation to their new Mussulman subjects. Far from driving them out of the country by persecution, as is the case in Bulgaria and other districts ceded by Turkey, the Montenegrins appear determined to leave no stone unturned in order to conciliate and retain the Mussulman and Roman Catholic population, their enemies for centuries. Governor Popovic seems proud of the effect of his treatment, by which he assured me the whole Mussulman population had remained. Captain Frank, of the "Narenta," though he says this is a slight exaggeration, yet in the main it is true.

To all outward appearance this population of Duleigno (considered by Mr. Reade to be a turbulent and fanatical one) is now quiet, and is certainly pursuing its ordinary avocations without any display of force. I only saw two Montenegrin soldiers in the bazar, and was assured by Popovic that there is only one company at Duleigno.

I am afraid, however, that the question of the flag is not being taken with the equanimity which the worthy Popovic hopes for it. Captain Frank pointed out to me several Duleigniote vessels in the Bocche di Cattaro still flying the Ottoman flag; he says

they always do so when out of sight of Dulcigno; it appears that their Moslem stomachs revolt from the small cross on the top of the Princely crown.

Antivari is a most curious sight from its complete destruction, and I should be curious to know the number and calibre of the Montenegrin guns which worked so much havoc; it shows the power of modern artillery, however small. (I know of the accidental explosion three months ago.) Mgr. Colovič tell me that he fears the Montenegrin Government will have great difficulties in making their new territory profitable. Money and intelligence must come in from the outside.

However the experiment of retaining the old inhabitants turns out, it is a very interesting one. If it fails, it must be bad for so weak and poor a Power as Montenegro to keep an inimical population in subjection by force.

The Prince deserves all sympathy, and I have no doubt the intelligence and good education of M. Bozo Petrovič, and others, have borne good fruit.

P.S.—I find the Boechese very uncomfortable about the approaching enforcement of the conscription; some say they will fight as they did before.

No. 63.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

Scutari, May 13, 1881.

My Lord,

NEWS reached this yesterday that Douleiman Bey Chela, one of the most influential Chiefs of the district of Mutin, and who was amongst the persons who recently met M. Mavromatis, the Greek Consul, near Durazzo, was, on the 10th instant, killed, together with his nephew and five other companions, by Oulo Bey Sogol and his retainers, at the moment when he was preparing to attack Oulo Bey.

Douleiman Bey's death is merely a continuation of a long chain of murders which have resulted from the rivalries existing between the feudal families in Middle Albania, and which have been in an especially active state during the last two years, and cannot, I think, be attributed to the intercourse lately held with M. Mavromatis.

Khaireddin Bey Sogol, the brother-in-law of Douleiman Bey, is at present at Athens, and was probably the person through whom the Greek Consul was first able to open communications with the Albanian Chiefs.

The incapacity or unwillingness shown by the Ottoman authorities to put a stop to the blood-feuds and rivalries existing between these families I have reason to know forces all the contending fractions to seek for Greek support; and, consequently, now that the Khaireddin Bey and Toptani party may have been weakened by Douleiman Bey's death, the Hellenic Government can continue, if advisable, its plans with the Jelu and other Sogol families.

I have ascertained from many of the heads of these parties that what they secretly and inwardly hope for is that a Government should arise capable of putting an end to feuds, which ruin not only themselves but also the whole country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 64.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received May 25.)

(No. 23.)

Canea, Crete, May 15, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the third Session of the (Reformed) General Assembly of the Cretans began on the 10th instant. The Governor-General, Photiades Pasha, who is the President, opened the meeting by a speech, of which the following is an abstract:—

His Excellency enumerated the more important of the measures which, after being voted by the last Assembly, had now become law. The Criminal Code of Procedure being found to be defective, a few additional Articles would be proposed for adoption, and in a future Session, when more experience had been obtained of the working of the Civil Code, some additions, or perhaps modifications, would, it was thought, have to be introduced into it also. The Communal Law voted by the last Assembly had been found of great

practical utility, and further measures tending to its perfection would be submitted to their consideration.

The President then reviewed the financial situation of the island, which he regarded as satisfactory. The total receipts of the past financial year, ending on the 12th March, had amounted to 14,320,722 piastres (113,728*l.*), while the expenditure had been 9,885,874 piastres (78,459*l.*), thus leaving a surplus of 4,433,848 piastres (35,189*l.*). Out of this surplus had been paid the loan of 18,000*l.* (with interest) contracted to supply the deficiency of the previous year, leaving thus a net surplus of 2,185,655 piastres (17,346*l.*). This sum, the President reminded his hearers, had to be equally divided, according to the so-called Convention of the 15th October, 1878, between the Local Administration and the Porte, the former moiety being destined for public works and education. Instead, however, of conforming to the terms of the Convention, his Excellency informed the Deputies that, inasmuch as the receipts of the present financial year were expected to fall short of the expenditure, the Administrative Council (of which the Vali is also President) had decided to employ the surplus belonging to the Porte to cover this deficiency, instead of drawing on the Custom-house receipts for that purpose, as the same Convention authorizes. He further added that the income of the present year would be considerably augmented by the addition of the tithes of certain mosque lands which had been unjustly appropriated. One of the questions which had produced a sore feeling between the two religious sections of the Assembly of last year was the contention that the tithes of certain lands which had been kept back by the trustees of pious Mussulman foundations belonged of right to the local Budget, and the Vali now informed his hearers that the Mixed Commission which he had appointed to investigate this subject had reported that the accusation was well-founded, and the abuse should therefore cease.

His Excellency next informed the Assembly that a Project of Law had been drawn up for their consideration, reforming the system of collecting the taxes, which, as at present carried on, was fruitful of many abuses.

The Vali then made the important announcement that he had concluded a Convention with the well-known mercantile house of Zarifi for the formation of a Bank in Crete, into which should be paid the local revenue, and which should be empowered to grant loans to the public on the security of real property. The Convention would, of course, be submitted for the approval of the Assembly, and if that were obtained, there was little doubt that it would receive the Imperial sanction.

His Excellency concluded his address by informing his hearers that two important questions still claimed their attention, which, owing to other pressing business, the two previous Assemblies had been compelled to overlook. He referred to the questions of education and road-making, for both of which he had prepared Bills, which, he trusted, as being of paramount importance, would receive their earliest attention.

The few sittings which have taken place since the opening on the 10th instant have been occupied in verifying the elections of four or five Members which had been challenged, and in the formation of four Committees for studying the following questions:—(1) the finances; (2) public instruction; (3) the construction of roads, additions to be made to the Code of Criminal Procedure, and modifications to be introduced into the Communal Law; and (4) the examination of divers petitions presented by various Members of the Assembly.

Exception was taken by the Mussulman Deputies to the presence in their midst of two Christian Members who have hitherto been considered Greek subjects, but the objection was overruled in both cases by their names having been found inscribed in communal registers, a circumstance which was accepted as proof of their Ottoman nationality. It is worthy of remark that no oath or affirmation of allegiance is imposed on Members before taking their seats, but nobody supposes that the observance of such a formality would be effectual for excluding disloyal subjects.

The present Assembly compares favourably with the two preceding ones, both because it contains a greater number of intelligent and earnest-minded men bent on bringing about local improvements, and because it has been purified of two or three intriguing demagogues who had contrived to sow dissension and jealousies among the Members. The President himself, Photiades Pasha, is animated with the best intentions, and is resolved that, so far as depends on him, the present Session shall not be barren of wise legislation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 65.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

Constantinople, May 26, 1881.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. GOSCHEN has just left for Odessa in "Antelope." His Imperial Majesty the Sultan sent his Private Secretary and his Aide-de-camp to the Embassy this afternoon to wish his Excellency good-bye in his name. His Imperial Majesty's Principal Naval Aide-de-camp accompanied the Ambassador on board the "Antelope."

No. 66.

Mr. Plunkett to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 27, 2·10 P.M.)

(No. 267.)

Constantinople, May 27, 1881, 1·5 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Ambassador desires to act at once on proposal of Baron Haymerle, that the Ambassadors here should concert a settlement of the Montenegrin Frontier question.

Russian Ambassador has asked me to attend meetings of Ambassadors, and has begged me to ask for your Lordship's authority to act.

Asserts that his Government are so anxious for a settlement, and consider it so urgent, that he does not wish to postpone the meeting till Lord Dufferin's arrival.

He tells me privately that further concessions probably would be made to secure a prompt solution.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 393.)

Foreign Office, May 27, 1881.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli* calling attention to the fact, that twenty-four villages in the Rhodope, which form part of the territory of Eastern Roumelia, have never been brought under the authority of the Provincial Government, and are practically independent, and suggesting, with a view to preventing these villages from becoming refuges for brigand bands, that the Porte should use its influence to induce the inhabitants to submit quietly to the Roumelian Government, so that a strong and efficient frontier-guard may be stationed on the border, and co-operate with the authorities in Macedonia to maintain order and tranquillity.

I have to instruct you to sound the Representatives of the other Powers at Constantinople as to whether they consider that it would be desirable to make a representation to the Porte on the subject.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 68.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 357.)

Foreign Office, May 28, 1881, 4·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram No. 267, I concur in your acting with Representatives in Montenegrin question.

No. 69.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 5.)

Foreign Office, May 28, 1881, 4·50 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople telegraphed yesterday that Russian Ambassador desired to act at once on Austrian proposal that the Ambassadors should concert a settlement of Montenegrin Frontier question.

Mr. Plunkett has been authorized to act with other Representatives accordingly.

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* No. 37.

No. 70.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 394. Extender.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 28, 1881.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 267 of yesterday, stating that the Russian Ambassador is anxious to act at once on the proposal that the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople should concert a settlement of the Montenegrin Frontier question, and has asked you to obtain permission to attend meetings of the Ambassadors for that purpose; and I have to acquaint you that you are authorized by Her Majesty's Government to act with the other Representatives in this matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 71.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 60.)

My Lord,

Salonica, April 30, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth has addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, furnishing some further particulars on the subject of his Report of the 10th February last relative to the pillage of a church in the village of Macrinitza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 71.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Mr. Goschen.

Sir,

Larissa, April 27, 1881.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 10th February last, I have to report that shortly after its transmission the Commander-in-chief, Idayet Pasha, together with the Civil Governor, Halil Bey, visited Volo on a tour of inspection, and that being myself there at the time, I took the first opportunity to make known to them my views of the circumstances attending the pillage of the Macrinitza church.

The suspicions entertained against the soldiers were by both considered as admissible, and Idayet Pasha did not hesitate for a moment to order the immediate change of the detachment of troops stationed at the village, and the arrest of the responsible sergeant and corporal, as well as the soldier whose handkerchief is said to have been found partly burnt in the church.

The trials of the prisoners have since been conducted before the respective Criminal Courts of Volo and Larissa, in a strict, impartial, and regular manner, while the circumstances of the outrage were further investigated under the direct supervision of the "Procureur."

Notwithstanding all efforts, however, Field-Marshal Idayet Pasha, in opening the subject to me the other day, expressed his regret that the proceedings were about to terminate without a verdict, as the suspicions against the prisoners cannot be substantiated by conclusive evidence. His Excellency attributed the failure, firstly, to all the soldiers of the battalion being of Albanian race, who, true to a national characteristic, cannot be brought, under any pressure, to confess the guilt of their fellow-countrymen; and, secondly, to the negligence and inaction of the Commandant, Omer Bey, who is much to blame, he added, for not taking on the spot prompt and efficacious means towards the discovery of the culprits and the stolen objects of the church.

I remarked, in answer, that I myself, and other impartial observers, were fully aware, and justly appreciated the laudable and persistent manner in which the inquiry has of late been conducted by the authorities, but that it seemed to me rather strange that Omer Bey should still be kept in command of the troops in so important a district as that of Volo, after having shown such dereliction in his military duties and responsibilities.

His Excellency replied that he had already reprimanded him very severely for his conduct in the Macrinitza affair, and that the command at Volo is about to be consigned to General Nedjib Pasha, who, by his knowledge of European languages, manners, and customs, and by his well-known liberal ideas, is likely to win the esteem and confidence of the people.

I admitted the popularity of Nedjib Pasha among all classes of the inhabitants, and I expressed myself as greatly pleased, on account of the public in general, and British interests in particular, that so able and trustworthy an officer has been selected as Commander-in-chief of the Volo district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 72.

Consul-General Jones to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 25.)
Philippopoli, May 18, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the political events which are happening in the neighbouring Principality of Bulgaria affect in no way the peace of this province up to the present time, nor is there apparently any prospect of the reigning tranquillity being disturbed by any measures which the Bulgarian Government may see fit to adopt.

The attention of the people is at present directed to the agricultural and industrial situation of the country, which seems more than usually favourable. The prospect of the approaching election likewise excites some interest, but in a minor degree. The local press speaks with comparative moderation of the situation in Bulgaria, and the accompanying extract from the leading journal of Philippopoli fairly represents public opinion on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Extract from the "Maritza."

LES ennemis des Bulgares ne manqueront pas de profiter des événements de Sophia pour accuser les Bulgares éclairés d'incapacité, et prétendre que le peuple Bulgare n'est pas digne de la liberté qui lui a été octroyée. Nous ne maintiendrons pas que ceux qui ont été appelés depuis deux ans à gérer les affaires de la Principauté aient toujours été à la hauteur de leur position. Nous admettons que l'esprit de parti a souvent faussé leur jugement et donné aux affaires une direction qu'elles n'auraient jamais dû prendre. Mais quand on juge les Ministres Bulgares, il ne faut pas perdre de vue ce qu'ils étaient avant la guerre et ce qu'ils sont devenus après l'installation du Gouvernement national. L'esclavage n'a jamais été une bonne école pour la liberté. Pendant la durée de l'oppression séculaire qu'ils ont endurée, les Bulgares n'ont jamais été admis à participer au gouvernement de leur pays, et ce qu'ils voyaient de l'administration et de la justice Ottomane n'était pas précisément fait pour leur inspirer une haute idée des qualités requises pour la pratique des grandes affaires humaines. Dépourvus de toute pratique du régime Constitutionnel, nourris sous la funeste influence du plus pur arbitraire et inexpérimentés, les gouvernants de la Principauté n'ont pas toujours répondu aux espérances du peuple, et justifié la confiance du Prince; ils n'ont pas été de taille à lutter avec les immenses difficultés inhérentes à tout changement radical de régime. Au commencement des libertés Belges, Leopold Ier lui-même s'était épouvanté de la responsabilité qu'il prenait sur lui en acceptant la Couronne. Lui aussi croyait que la Constitution Belge n'accordait pas assez de garanties à l'autorité et fut souvent sur le point d'être découragé. Et si "l'expérience Belge," comme il s'exprimait dans ses lettres à Stockmar, a réussi, s'est parce que la Belgique ne sortait pas de l'esclavage le plus dur pour entrer dans la liberté la plus absolue et qu'elle possédait des hommes qui avaient eu une grande expérience des affaires politiques.

Tel n'a pas malheureusement été le sort des peuples Chrétiens de l'Orient. Grecs,

Serbes, et Bulgares se sont trouvés au commencement de leur existence indépendante en butte aux plus âpres tiraillements. L'assassinat de l'illustre patriote Grec, Kapo d'Istria, l'expulsion du célèbre libérateur Serbe Miloch, sont là pour nous prouver que la Grèce et la Serbie ont vu, dans les premières années de leur vie nationale, des événements autrement graves que ceux qui se sont produits depuis deux ans en Bulgarie. Nous sommes persuadé que le peuple Bulgare, qui doit profiter de l'expérience de ses voisins, n'ira jamais jusqu'à ces extrémités-là Malgré les fautes de ses politiciens, il a fait preuve jusqu'à présent d'un amour de la légalité et d'une aversion pour le désordre que ne doivent pas perdre de vue ceux qui seront enclins, à la nouvelle des derniers événements de Sophia, à le blâmer. Soit pendant les élections qui ont eu lieu en Bulgarie, soit pendant les Sessions de l'Assemblée, l'ordre n'a été troublé nulle part, quoique les passions de parti fussent très excitées. Nous espérons que les populations de la Bulgarie feront preuve du même esprit de légalité pendant la nouvelle époque qui a commencé pour la Principauté Lundi passé. Il serait puéril de dissimuler que la Bulgarie passe actuellement une grande crise. Son Altesse le Prince Alexandre, le jeune et sympathique Souverain de la Bulgarie, faisant usage du droit que lui donne la Constitution, adresse un dernier appel au peuple Bulgare, et lui demande de choisir entre lui et la forme de Gouvernement, comme elle a été pratiquée jusqu'ici en Bulgarie. En présence d'une pareille alternative, les Bulgares ont besoin de toute leur prudence, de tout leur esprit pratique, et de tout leur patriotisme pour arriver à une conclusion qui soit conforme aux intérêts du pays, à sa tranquillité à l'intérieur, et à sa réputation à l'extérieur.

Philippopoli, le 13 *Mai*, 1881.

No. 73.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 407.)
Constantinople, May 23, 1881.

My Lord,

MR. VICE-CONSUL BLAKENEY has forwarded copies to your Lordship of his despatches to me of the 2nd and 23rd April last, in which he writes about the appointment of the notorious Mustapha Pronio as Bimbashi (Major) of the "Moukhaviniek Asker" (irregular forces).

No more cynical administrative measure has ever been taken, even by the Turkish Government. The letter of the Bishop of Paramithia will have shown your Lordship the natural results of such an appointment.

The history of this Mustapha Agha Pronio during the last two years is so significant, and illustrates so forcibly some of the administrative scandals of this country, that I have caused a Memorandum to be prepared, which I inclose for your Lordship's information, bringing the various facts together as they have been communicated to this Embassy.

I have made strong representations to the Foreign Minister with regard to the subject, and supplied him with the leading facts of the case in writing.

His Excellency said that if the man's character were such as described he could of course not be kept in the Government service, and he gave orders on the spot that the matter should be referred to the Minister of the Interior, Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

I shall make inquiry as to the result of this reference.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 73.

Memorandum of Correspondence respecting Mustafa Agha Pronio of Paramithia.

IN August 1879 the British Vice-Consul at Janina reported to Mr. Blakeney, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Prevesa, that an attack had been made by Mustapha Agha Pronio of Paramithia and his people on the village of Selini, near Paramithia, which had resulted in the slaying and wounding of about fifteen men. Mustapha Pronio's guilt having been proved he was imprisoned, but a few days later was liberated without trial. Fears were at the same time expressed that his return to Paramithia might result in the destruction of the village of Selini, and ill-treatment of the person* who had informed the Vali of Janina of the affair. Vice-Consul Blakeney, No. 22: August 1879.

* The Bishop of Paramithia.

Vice-Consul Blakeney, No. 7; March 6, 1880. C. 500.

On the 12th February, 1880, thirty inhabitants of Selini addressed a Petition to the various Consuls at Janina, expressing their despair at hearing that the authorities of Epirus had "prematurely released from prison Mustapha Pronio, who has committed myriads of atrocities in our village," and complaining "that the authorities were making sport of justice and of the laws by allowing this brutal murderer to return to our village still stained with the blood spilt by his own hands," that their "horror and despair had been succeeded by a just and irrepressible wrath, which, having no consideration for hatred or danger, drives us to the unalterable decision to protect with our own hands our rights so inhumanly trodden, throwing the responsibility of all that might result therefrom on the Government."

Sublime Porte; March 17, 1880. S. P. 151.

On the 26th January, 1880, Her Majesty's Embassy brought the facts of the case to the knowledge of the Sublime Porte. The Ottoman Government replied by quoting an extract from a despatch from the Military Commandant of Janina, in which it was stated that only three persons were killed and three wounded in the affray between the brigands and the inhabitants of Selini, that Mustapha Pronio was being tried by the Military Tribunal, and had been set at liberty on bail at the advice of the medical adviser, because he was ill and the prison unhealthy; but that as soon as his health was restored he should be re-imprisoned.

To Vice-Consul Blakeney; March 26, 1880. To E. 276. Vice-Consul Blakeney, No. 20; May 1, 1880. C. 935.

This statement was communicated to Mr. Blakeney, who, having referred it to the British Vice-Consul at Janina, for his observations, informed Her Majesty's Embassy that, in the opinion of that gentleman, Mustapha Pronio could not have been released on bail on account of illness, or he would have been sent to the military hospital, and that though he had been again imprisoned, it was rather in consequence of representations made by the Sublime Porte than of his recovery from illness as the Military Commandant asserted.

To Sublime Porte; May 13, 1880. To S. P. 150.

These remarks of Mr. Blakeney's were communicated to the Sublime Porte, and the difference pointed out between the version of the release of Mustapha Pronio given by the Military Commandant of Janina and that received from the British Vice-Consul at that place.

This note has remained unanswered.

Vice-Consul Blakeney, No. 5; March 21, 1881. E. C. 165.

After having been kept about a year in prison Mustapha Pronio was set at liberty towards the beginning of March last, through the interference, it is stated, of Ferik Zeki Pasha, commander of the troops in Epirus. In reporting this Mr. Blakeney adds that "the return of this villain to his native village could not be looked upon but as a violation of justice, besides as a danger to many of his fellow villagers."

Vice-Consul Blakeney, No. 6; April 2, 1881. E. C. 222. Vice-Consul Blakeney; April 23, 1881. E. C. 289.

A little later the British Vice-Consul at Janina reported to Mr. Blakeney that Mustapha Pronio had been appointed Bimbashi (Major) of the "Moukhaviniek Asker" (auxiliary forces).

This appointment appears to have led almost immediately to the results that had been anticipated. Complaints are made of the violence of Mustapha Pronio and his followers.

The Christians are terrified and have presented two Petitions, one to the Kaïmakam, the other privately to the Mir Alai, demanding security of life. The market has been closed. Mustapha Agha Pronio "goes every day to the Houkimet (Government House) with twenty of his armed followers, and remains there all day long. He despises and threatens the Kaïmakam, the Aghas, and other officials. He interferes in every affair, orders things to be done according to his pleasure, imprisons and sets free all those whom he wishes, paralyzes the work of the Houkimet, and spreads terror by means of his armed men. Communications on the subject have been made by the Houkimet to the Vali of Janina, as well as by other persons* in office."

As an instance of what is occurring at Puramithia, the following will serve as an example:—

On the 2nd March last a follower of Mustapha Pronio, a certain Metsos Dervissi Metas, made a small purchase in the shop of the Christian Sotiri Tzangeto, but, on the latter demanding payment, Metsos abused him and stabbed him, wounding him severely in the left breast. The Houkimet, being informed of this, issued orders for the arrest of Metsos, but Mustapha Pronio interfered, and undertook to find the man himself. Instead of doing so he helped him to escape, and, when asked for his follower by the Houkimet, coolly replied that it was the duty of the Houkimet to catch the man, not his.

(Signed) F. M. SARTORIS.

Constantinople, May 9, 1881.

* The Mir Alai privately.

No. 74.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 267. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 22, 1881.

I CANNOT learn that the Austrian Government are in possession of any information from Albania similar to that reported to your Lordship by Mr. Green in his Secret and Confidential despatch No. 43 of the 12th April.

Baron Haymerle mentioned to me yesterday that Dervish Pasha appeared completely to have overcome or gained over the Chiefs of the League.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 270. Extender.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 22, 1881.

I LEARN that Baron Haymerle has been informed from Constantinople that M. Novikow has intimated the assent of the Russian Government to Captain Sale's proposal for the mode of settling the Montenegrin Frontier question, but accompanied the acceptation with some conditions.

His Excellency would have greatly preferred that the whole question of the frontier should have been left to the Commission, and that each point connected with the arrangement should have been decided at Scutari by the vote of a majority of its members, but, as the Ambassadors have been so successful in dealing with other and much more difficult questions, he has answered that he will not object to certain points being referred to them, though he earnestly trusts that they may be allowed to decide them without appealing to the Cabinets upon such matters as the possession of a village, or the destruction of an insignificant fort.

If there should be a difference of opinion upon a question of importance, they would naturally ask for instructions from their Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 76.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 271.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 25, 1881.

THE statement made to your Lordship by M. Marinowitch, of which you informed Mr. Gould, by your despatch No. 160 of the 13th May, that the Servian Government had no present intention of proclaiming a Monarchy, coincides with the assurances that have been given to the Austro-Hungarian Government, who, however, appear to me to contemplate with less repugnance than formerly the probability of the change being ultimately made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 77.

Mr. Wyndham to Earl Granville.—(Received May 30.)

(No. 248.)
My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, May 25, 1881.

I ASKED M. de Giers to-day whether the question of raising Servia to a kingdom had been mooted to him. His Excellency said that M. Marionoviteh had spoken to the Ambassadors in London on the subject, but that nothing had been said here; that the

question did not appear to be ripe; but that Servia becoming a kingdom might perhaps tend to consolidate her, and that he would sooner see her a kingdom than a republic.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HUGH WYNDHAM.

No. 78.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 358.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 30, 1881, 3·30 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 269 of 28th.

Will communicate with Society respecting Sultan's present.

No. 79.

Earl Granville to Mr. Plunkett.

(No. 359.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, May 30, 1881, 7 P.M.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 268 and 269 of the 28th.

Convey to the Sultan an expression of the high sense entertained by Her Majesty's Government of His Majesty's generosity to foreigners in distress in this country shown by his present to the Society of their Friends.

I have communicated with the Society.